

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

# SOCCER

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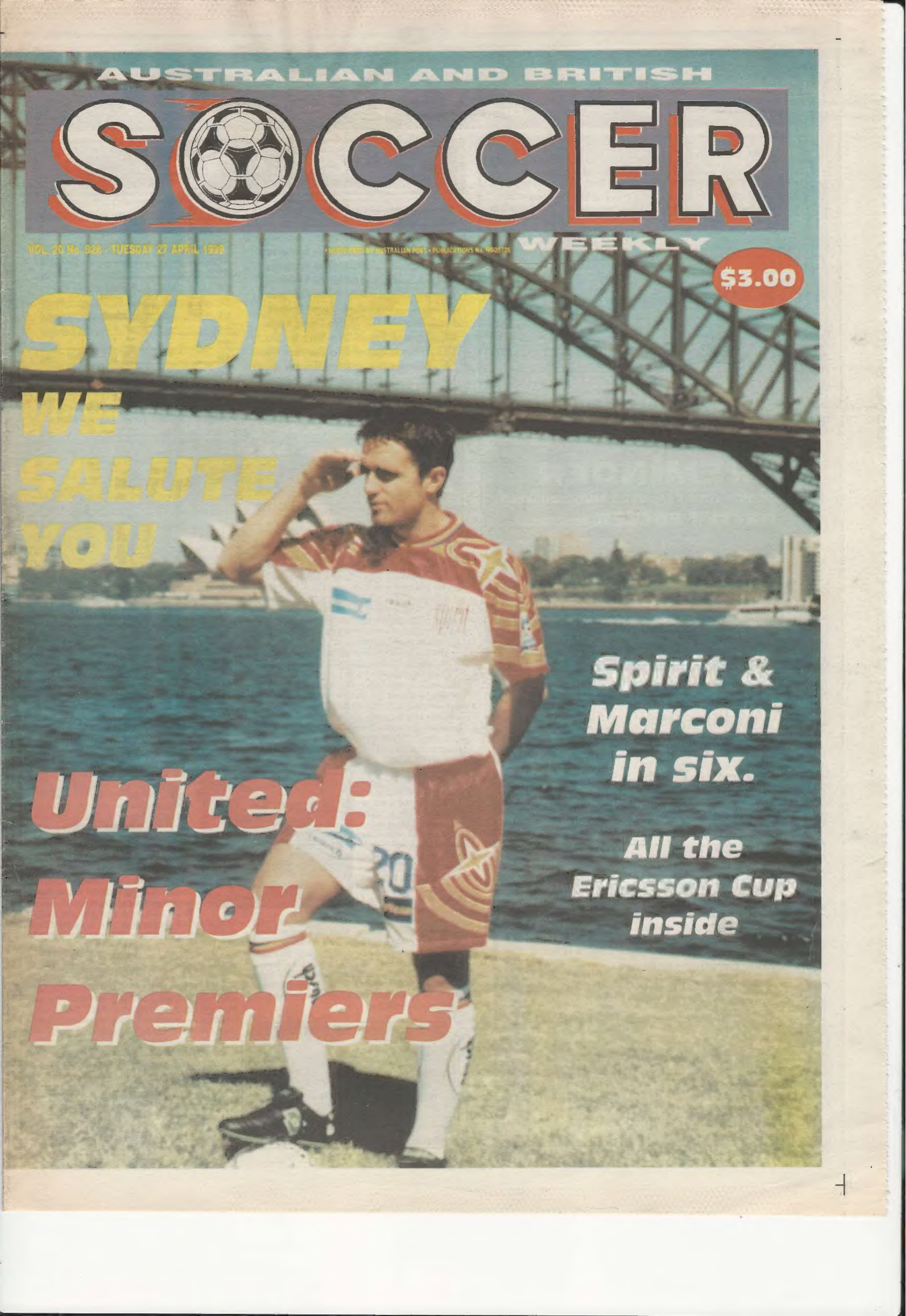
# SYDNEY

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# United: Minor Premiers

**Spirit &  
Marconi  
in six.**

**All the  
Ericsson Cup  
inside**





# SOCCER WEEKLY

## AUSSIE & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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 31 .....UK  
 Congratulations to all top six sides.

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Remember, Soccer won the survey for most popular  
 football code in their recent Net site poll.

## THE SOUL STRIKER!

By Aidan Ormond

Marconi may have their Seoul Brother Pan-Keun Kim, but Brisbane Strikers have their own version. While the Queenslanders did not finish in the top six, forward Wayne Knipe is a number one Soul Brother with many of the city's music fans.

According to industry sources, 'Knipey' as he is known, is actually a very good singer. We know this because he sang the national anthem (pictured right) before the home game against the Cosmos. He also won the man of the match award that day, so it must have given him a lift.

'Must be a locker room singer got lucky?' I hear you say? Ye of little faith.

Knipe's singing skills are so good that Brisbane based independent record company FRS, has signed him to their stable of hip hop and soul acts. The company is excited with their new signing and describe his voice as "awesome".

Singing a national anthem must have been a big deal though, but as the K-man reveals, it all came about by accident.

"It was a bit of a shock. Kossie (John Kosmina) asked me before a game recently and I said yes. I don't know what happened with the regular singer but Kossie had heard that I do a bit of singing. The crowd gave me a bit of applause which was encouraging. Kossie is not my agent though!" explains the likeable 21 year old.

So is Knipe the next Francis Awaritefe?

(Laughs) "No, look I am just me. I would just like to be known as an entertainer. I have actually performed in

Brisbane. I performed with the support act before the Snoopy Doggy gig here in Brisbane, which was a great experience. Snoopy signed a Strikers shirt for me which was a buzz."

For Knipe, music has been in his blood since he was a child. "Music has always been there, my Dad used to sing in a band and people gave me the confidence to pursue my own singing. As long as I stay focussed and work hard my dreams will come true. As for the two parts of my life, hopefully the music will complement the Soccer."



Knipe's FRS record label

When it comes to marketing Australian Soccer, Knipe has his ideas on what we should be doing

"I think the players all have other lives outside of Soccer, with interests which can be promotable (see Sharks story in this issue for a pretty bizarre bunch of players!). There are some characters around the place and we should be using them."

As for the Strikers Knipe feels the team may have missed a few beats and hit bum notes at the wrong time.

"The fitness was up, we were organised but lost crucial games at vital times. Yes we are very disappointed that we did not make the finals. We just have to work hard and prepare for the new season."

With his ever changing hair colours, the singing and of course the exciting soccer style, Wayne Knipe is one of a new breed of modern day soccer players in Australia. One who understands that to promote the game, the players have to do their part.

And, as the Soul Striker says, "I just wanted to be known as an entertainer." Let the show begin.

These last three weeks we have had our say on failed Young Socceroo coach Les Scheinflug. We believe 18 years in the job is too long, the results have reflected this and there is plenty of young talent available in Australia.

This is not a personal vendetta, but a simple stating of the facts. We hope he proves us wrong and takes our U/17s to much glory, because it appears he has held on to his job. A spineless Soccer Australia has effectively said, 'we don't mind your results' and has kept him on (pending an inquiry which has yet to be made public).

Les is currently coaching our U/17s here in Sydney in preparation for the World Cup qualifiers. In an effort to deflect criticism of the obdurate Scheinflug, Soccer Australia appointed Wollongong coach Nick Theodorakopoulos as his assistant. Nick of course is not involved with the top six finals, has never played for Australia or an overseas club. All the currently available coaching talent is involved with the finals.

Staying on the entertainment theme, recently someone said that Les Scheinflug was the Bert Newton of Australian Soccer. Well maybe Bertie should take the U/17s and Young Socceroos and Les to host Good Morning Australia?

After all, as Les himself said, the results in Nigeria "meant nothing" (SBS TV), so it should not matter who coaches our best young talent, does it?

\*See readers' letters on page six.

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Graeme Haney  
 General Manager  
 Wollongong Wolves  
 PO Box 263  
 FAIRY MEADOW NSW 2519

### WAYNE KNIPE FACTFILE

Born: South Africa (came here when four)  
 Fav TV: Simpsons  
 Fav Band: Jodeci  
 Ideal Woman: My fiancée Allison  
 Contract: Up at end of this season.  
 Music: Look out for Knipe on upcoming FRS  
 International Tracks 'The Realist' featuring Lotus and  
 Pa Paul. 'The Awakening' featuring Red J and JC  
 Superstar and his debut solo joint 'I Will'



# Australian News

## MAN UTD SPOOKS AFL

**D**espite a massive media push courtesy of wealthy and powerful media barons, millions of carefully targeted marketing dollars, and a commission hell bent on national dominance (North Melbourne in Sydney?), poor old AFL still feels the need to cling to its security blanket — in this case Friday Night Football — when the Global phenomenon called Soccer blows into town with another spectacular.

Witness the behaviour of the sport that loves to lay claim to be all things 'Australian' (indigenous players and racism?) over Manchester United, a truly global club playing the world's biggest team sport, lining up at the MCG against the Socceroos in July in Melbourne.

The AFL refused to move a game between two of the world's biggest football clubs (no really), Richmond and Melbourne, because Friday Night AFL cannot be disturbed.

Manchester United now plays on the Thursday night. Assisting the AFL in its effort to rationalise this is a lapdog media.

Example one: Channel 7 commentator Bruce McAvaney's comments last Friday night were a subtle attempt to bolster AFL's image as the keepers of all Friday night football events in Melbourne.

Example two: The Age's Patrick Smith attempts to rationalise the decision but ends up burning himself: 'Australian football owes soccer nothing. It certainly doesn't owe it a prime time slot at the MCG and on national television ... We should not be in doubt that the AFL fears soccer as its greatest threat to its push to be a truly national sport ... it [soccer] remains the tinder in the forest. Light it and you have a bushfire ... The MCG in winter is the AFL's patch,' writes Smith.

That same paper's Greg Baum got it right when he wrote: '... it is a salivating prospect. Friday night, school and working week done. MCG gates open, a once-in-a-generation experience awaits. Instead, the AFL pouts and says it won't give up its Friday night booking. The AFL sees itself as the protector of the Australian game. But it is a petty kind of protection to try to pretend that other codes do not exist or matter.'

He goes on to write that the AFL has made Melbourne look, from an international standpoint, a backwater, something Premier Kennett has successfully changed over the last few years.

As the Victorian Premier said in a statement earlier in the week: 'This fixture is an important major event for Melbourne because it provides us with an opportunity to show the organisers of the World Cup that we are more than capable of holding world class, international soccer events. The match will provide a multi-million dollar economic benefit to the state as well as focussing on international attention on Melbourne and Victoria,' said the Premier.

The AFL's intransigence hardly helps the Victorian Govt or their image and feeds the perception of product inferiority (Global envy?).

If you are unhappy with the media's coverage of Soccer let them know. In the case of Channel Seven, we have their contact details on page two.

### KNIGHTS MOVING WITH THE TIMES?

**S**till in Melbourne and the Knights are considering re-locating to Olympic Park next season to increase their chances of survival in the Ericsson Cup into the next millennium, reports Damir



Govorcin.

Poor crowds, lack of corporate support and substandard facilities at Somers Street has forced Knights' management to investigate playing their home matches closer to Melbourne's CBD.

It's a move which is sure to stir mixed emotions among the Knights' supporters, but the club's general manager Damian Phillips believes all avenues need to be explored if the Knights are to prosper into the 21st century.

'It's difficult to generate corporate support because of our location in the outer suburbs, so a move to Olympic Park would open a few more doors for the club,' offered Phillips.

'Olympic Park offers better facilities to attract corporate sponsors and our supporters can watch in greater comfort. As a club, we need to broaden our supporter base if we're to progress. It's not cut and dried that we're moving to Olympic Park, but it's definitely an option.'

The \$1 million dollar windfall the Knights received from Mark Viduka's transfer to Scottish giants Celtic has helped ease the club's huge financial debt and ensured their survival in the Ericsson Cup for a year at least.

The Knights have had a poor season, failing to reach the play-offs but have no plans to open the purse strings to improve their squad next season.

'I know our supporters demand success, but our major priority is to alleviate our debts,' asserted Phillips. 'If the money for Mark's transfer didn't come we would be either playing in the Victorian Premier League next season or completely folded as a club. That's how serious it was and we still have a tough road ahead of us.'

The Knights' playing ranks have been decimated in recent seasons and that trend looks set to continue with quality striker Tom Pondeljak expected to head over to Europe.

'Tom impressed during some trials he had in Belgium earlier this season and is keen to have another crack over there,' said Phillips.

'It would be a shame to lose Tom, but we won't be standing in his way. It's a feather in the cap of this club that we can produce so many players who make the grade in Europe.'

And don't forget, coming soon to Soccer Weekly, the Four Diegos' interview with Knights' GM Damian Phillips.

## WE FEAR NO-ONE, SAYS GRIFFITHS

**A**mazing. That is the only word to describe David Mitchell's Sydney United. As we all now know, they are minor premiers. This has been achieved under tremendous financial strain, yet they have prevailed, and Sydney should be proud of its team from Edensor Park.

Looking ahead to the finals and the Pumas' striker Joel Griffiths is in no mood to believe that it is enough to just make it: he wants to win it and fears no other side in the six.

Speaking to Soccer Weekly exclusively yesterday (while playing tennis!) Griffiths feels the time has come for Mitchell's Miracle Men.

'After coming back from Nigeria with the Young Socceroos, it is such a great feeling to win the league,' said a confident Griffiths.

'I really believe we can go all the way. I don't fear any of the other sides.'

What many people may not have realised is that Griffiths came back from Nigeria 99 six kilos underweight.

Fortunately he is now eating well and is returning to full strength, although his father, Alan Griffiths (a former player) believes this issue of food should never have happened.

Meanwhile, the applause Griffiths Jr received when he came on as a sub late against the Sharks is a fair indication of the love the fans at Edensor have for this blond bombshell.

The Griffiths-Sterjovski partnership is one of the best in the league, but for the moment the



Griffiths' striking partner at United, Mile Sterjovski.

skilful Nathan Day is taking his opportunity upfront while Joel fights his way back.

In midfield the hardworking Walter Ardone (see minor premiers celebratory poster middle page) is clearly running the show while the evergreens Barrett and Kupresak just get better and better.

As Griffiths says, everyone gets on and we work hard for each other. Sometimes the simple things in life work the best.

Spirit plays this Friday night against Marconi and Perth Glory travels to Adelaide City on Sunday in the two first leg Elimination Finals.

This is a great time to bring new fans to the game — this finals series looks to be very exciting.



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**LATE NEWS: LAZIO AND ITALY SUPER-STAR CHRISTIAN VIERI IS CONFIRMED FOR FIFA GAME JUNE 12 AGAINST SOCCEROOS**



# Australian Features

## THE NIGHT THE ROWDIES MET THEIR MATCH?

By Dwyght Tuffnell

**F**orget Ryan Giggs' fluke winner against Arsenal, the real footballing moment of the month was lost in the mud at Breakers' Stadium.

The Newcastle Rowdies, the biggest legends (as in 'Ahh mate yor a legend') in soccer history, were due to meet a bunch of sad, old liggers from Northern Spirit during oranges at Breakers' Stadium.

This is the moment I come clean after, hopefully, capturing your attention and elaborate on what I'm talking about.

The Rowdies are the Newcastle supporters team who are always itching to play other genuine supporters' sides and get down and dirty in their famous Celery-coloured guernseys.

Undefeated and without a goal scored against them in 10 years, the Rowdies are a star-studded bunch of health fanatics as spokesman Jim 'Fat Cat' Catlin attested:

"We're a pack of old drunks who used to play soccer together. Some of us still do but don't write that! whispered Jim, who mentioned Stephen Bradbury as the coordinating mind behind the whole venture.

The Rowdies have been a feature of Newcastle's NSL scene for many years first congregating at the time of KB United.

Actually we think we are the most loyal mob in the country, he said, with his cracked tinnie of VB in an iron tight grip, whilst a constellation of Rowdies, decked out impressively in official fleecy tartan shirts from Lowes, milled restlessly around us.

Jim appeared to be quite happy with the Rowdies'

role as an ad hoc extension of the club and proud of his hardy band of mates who populate one of the uncovered sections of the ground.

Yeah, while everyone's sheltered beneath the stands we're always here behind the keg, come rain or shine.

From the most resilient fans in the country to the newest and the supporter's club bus from North Sydney Oval.

40 strong, singing all the way up the motorway.

Why have they put their support behind Spirit?

"Numbers (of those interested in travelling) have been going up since the start of the season. We had to push it to begin with and had trouble getting the buses filled but now people are just ringing us up", said John McCormack, one of the members of the Supporters Club.

"In pretty much the same way as the Rowdies, the Spirit supporters club are completely independent of the club and there seems to be no real push to change the status quo.

"We're happy to keep independent so that we can raise questions if there is something we disagree with. That's what the fanzine at Spirit is all about.

"I guess with the club's help we could have filled 2 or three buses but we're happy with this."

John, began his association in sport with the Carlton AFL supporters, but soon changed his allegiance once he heard about Spirit and is quite happy organising trips



Spirit fans on a closer road trip: Olympic v Spirit at Belmore Sports Ground.

for the supporters.

There on the bus with us were two of the most important people of all. The type that the marketers are so willing to target for their ability to control the financial strings of the nation. But they were there for two totally different reasons.

The soccer mums. Without them where would we all be?

Nicola Leaney was with her son Robert.

"Well I left work early and came along because I wanted to see what it was like travelling with everyone else. I thought Robert and I would go away to support the team because their form hasn't been good away from home and I thought it might make a different us coming."

And at the front of the bus was Paul Henderson's mother, otherwise known in these parts as Mrs Henderson. A lucky charm for the club, no?

Well I don't know about the club but certainly for Paul. We're always at the ground for him because he

loves us being there. He didn't want to leave me behind tonight so he said "Mum, I'll put you on the bus."

And the big moment everyone had been waiting for?

Well, unfortunately, overnight rain meant that the Brisbane Gardens pitch had sucked more water than the Rowdies had drunk VB so the game was canned on account of those Celery shirts being muddied.

However, Big Jim did issue a welcome to others fancying a tussle on the Central Coast to contact Steven Bradbury at the club.

It seemed the night, regardless of the quagmire underfoot, to come out and come together. After all, the Breakers-Spirit fixture (which raked in the biggest crowd at Breakers Stadium this season, 5015) might just be the start of something approaching a sister club mentality.

And the introduction of a match-up between the rival supporters would do well to foster what are already warm relations between the two clubs.

## SKILL GALORE AT AGGRO CUP



You can check out more by going to [www.subbuteo.co.uk](http://www.subbuteo.co.uk)

By Craig Wilson

**I**t's four inches high, and it's made of solid pewter. It may mean nothing to you, but to devotees of Table Football, better known as Subbuteo, it's the holy grail. I'm talking about the Aggro Cup, Australia's longest running and most prestigious Table Football competition, which last week took place at the Concordia Club in Stanmore, NSW.

In a fast free-flowing final, Eliot Kennedy secured his second Aggro by beating Jeremy Simpson 1-0. In a game of excellent defensive flicking, Kennedy's thoughtful intelligent approach just edged out the solid, grafting and meticulous table football of Simpson. An eleventh minute shot from inside the box, beating defender and keeper, gave Kennedy a richly deserved victory.

Subbuteo was originally developed in England

during the late forties, and became a Christmas stocking staple through the decades that followed. Its advantages over other soccer board games were simple say devotees; it requires expertise, deftness, and looks like the real thing. The game is played by flicking a small 'player' against the ball with the finger nail. Over the years technical advances have created smaller, lighter players and balls, and smoother pitches, all contributing to a skillful and competitive game.

Despite its English origins, the game has spread throughout Europe, with the French and Belgians taking to it in large numbers, and the Maltese adopting it as an unofficial national sport.

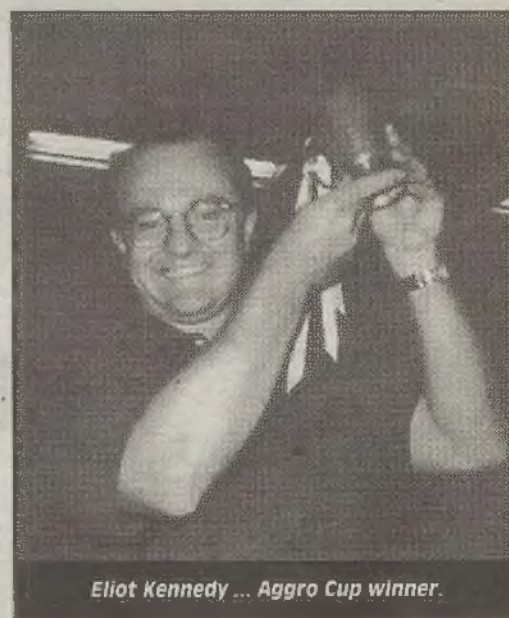
Dogged by controversy, particularly in Europe, internet web-pages and bulletin boards are awash with suggestions of cheating and favoritism. A friendlier controversy rears its head at the Aggro Cup; which are better - Sports, Soccer, 00, or Flats? For the uninitiated, these are different types of 'players', each with advantages and

disadvantages, which to the faithful can make the difference between victory and defeat. 00 and Flat-figures were developed by the Subbuteo company over the years, but Sports and Soccer figures were the brain-child of the great Swiss master Willy Hofman, and it was the involvement of players in the development of the game which led to the split with the founding company in 1994, and the renaming of the game as Table Football.

The Aggro Cup began in 1977, and is now one of the oldest competitions in the world. The first competitions were played out in North Shore bedrooms, 'with continuous chanting, and the incredible smell of sweat' as founder

Stephen Dettre tells me. The Concordia Club is now the spiritual home of Table Football in Australia.

On the sidelines, polishing the bases of his players for added slide, is gas engineer Steve Wilson. Devotees use Rapi Milk, an obscure German leather polish that reduces friction and gives a long and accurate flick. It's another of Willy Hofman's innovations. "I've been playing for nine



Eliot Kennedy ... Aggro Cup winner.



Action from the Concordia Club.

or ten years' says Wilson. 'I started playing when I lived in England, but when we moved here we got in touch with these guys. I've played in the nationals, and won the Best Youth trophy in '92'. Others, like Dettre, and the legendary Gary Hosie, have played abroad at the four yearly World Cup.

"Our philosophy is that a quick tournament is a good tournament", says Dettre, and games run for fifteen action packed minutes.

Highlights this year were the performances of the three Credentino brothers, newcomers to the competition, with Dominic in particular showing good form, taking eventual winner Eliot Kennedy to a thrilling 5-3 first round game.



# Australian Features

## CHARLIE EGAN: THE BLUES MAN WITH ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

By Aidan Ormond

**I**t took a mere six hours for Charlie Egan to start scoring goals in Australia. Arriving from Scotland at 9am, after a hellish 24 hour flight from Heathrow, the diminutive Scot was playing and scoring by 3.15pm that Saturday for his new Premier League side Frankston City.

What was also remarkable was his build and looks. Although 21, he could have passed for 16, prompting officials and players to speculate on whether the club had in fact signed Charlie Egan Jr, the son of their mystery signing!

And with a mop of lustrous curly hair not far short of an afro perm, comparisons to Kevin Keegan and certain members of the Jackson Five were also made.

These misgivings were quickly blown away however, as the former Dumbarton and Berwick Rangers striker, with his intelligent and skilful approach, scored and scored and scored. In a league known for its hardmen (Steve 'Butch' Kokoska, Gus Macleod, Steve McCombe, Danny McCluskey, Alan Kerr to name just five) and relatively high standard, this was no mean feat.

Egan won the club best player and Victoria's Rothmans Medal, as well as the top scorer award in a team that finished bottom three.

That was back in 1981.

What followed was a five year career with South Melbourne, joining together with Frankston City, and now South Melbourne assistant coach, Carl Halford, winning a championship with the Blues in 1984, and going on to play for Australia in the mid-eighties. He also played for Brunswick Juventus and Altona Gate.

After an industrial accident limited his playing career, Egan took up coaching in the Victorian Premier and state leagues in the late eighties, player/coaching Werribee (managing one of the Four Diegos!) for four years.

1999 was his first off since 1981.

An appearance on the press-release for the recent 'Legends' game at South Melbourne (celebrating that club's 40 year birthday) prompted Soccer Weekly to catch up with 'the wee man' (now slightly less a Jacksons lookalike: "it's all my wife's Greek cooking!") to find out his views on the current state of play in Australia.

"I think at NSL level the game has gone back. The

young talent are going overseas very early and we are not importing enough quality players, which may be more of an immigration issue rather than an Australian soccer one," reflects Egan in an accent still as Glaswegian as ever.

"Back in the early eighties there were more established players playing in the league, players with experience and presence, such as Alun Evans, Branko Buljevic, John Yzendoorn, Marshall Soper, John Kosmina and Peter Raskopoulos, and when the door was closed at immigration the standard did drop somewhat.

"Having said that, currently the likes of Glory and Spirit have the atmosphere, their fans are absolutely magic," enthuses forty year old Egan. "That crowd at Perth is there to stay and those sorts of clubs are the way of the future with their professionalism."

As for winning the title this year, Egan plumps for his former club.

"Ange has done a great job, South will be there in the finals and they can win it, but don't write off Spirit. Their players love the big-time, and they have one of the players I would pay to go and see - Kresimir Marusic. Real class and just tremendous to watch. Also Glory are in with a shout - I like Boutsianis, a real skill player.

"Mind you, I am a bit old fashioned, I think the team that wins the home-and-away should be the one that wins the league."

As for the national coaching position, Egan is adamant that now is the time to 'go local'.

"You've got guys like Mitchell, Farina, Krncevic etc. who have played for Australia, they are experienced and have the contacts in Europe. Having said that, if you are going to give one of the locals a go, Postecoglou would not let his country down. He has won a championship as a player and coach, and has done something very difficult. He has brought the team back to the top the year after winning the league, and he knows the local scene.

"If it is an overseas coach, he has to come here and live here. The Venables era was brilliant but he really needed someone who knew the local scene at a club level," he argues. "Even though the standard of our national team has improved out of sight, local leagues have suffered."

As for Nigeria 99 Egan was bitterly disappointed.

"We just weren't good enough. We did not look organised. It's easy to sit and criticize yet it was not an



South Melbourne's Charlie Egan at the old Middle Park with Apl's Ian Gray in the background.

overly hard group. The Cup was there to win because look at sides that ended up in the Final (Japan and Spain). Very disappointing for the lads.

The downturn in standard at a national league level has, in Egan's view, being reflected in the Premier League's standard.

"The Frankston City side of the early eighties would have won the current league! The Green Gully and Melbourne Croats of the early eighties were very strong.

"Having said that, the press at the moment, that is the mainstream press, in Victoria do not help the game. They kill the game with the lack of coverage."

On a lighter note, Egan is spending his time off being a regular husband. "At the moment, I'm enjoying spending time with my wife Effie. Infact, I know how to get to the football grounds now by which shopping centre is closest!

"But I will be back at some time, I love it too much."

Charlie Egan's era in the early eighties harks back to a time when imported players dominated many of our leagues. Some were disastrous (no names!), some were brilliant, and many became the game's

real characters in that boisterous footballers' way.

Charlie Egan was one of the classier imports who has also stayed and put back into the game. What was meant to be one year turned into 18 for the wee striker with the golden boots.

Just don't mention the Jackson Five!



The present day Charlie Egan in the Celtic boardroom late last year.

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# Australian Features

Have your  
say...

I think that the terrible performance by our Young Socceroos at Nigeria '99 is much worse than just their early exit from the tournament. After all, the Sydney Olympics are just around the corner and it doesn't need to be said that this will be one of the biggest events in Australian soccer ever - hosting a major tournament on home soil.

Up until now, I had thought that, with the home support behind them, the Olyroos had a fair chance at winning a medal at Sydney 2000 but after the Young Socceroos results I'm not so sure anymore.

Considering that about a third of the team from Nigeria '99 will be in the Olympic team, this is a worrying sign for me and, I'm sure every supporter of soccer in this country.

I think that if Raul Blanco and co-sit back and do nothing about this situation then we will be bitterly disappointed at Sydney 2000. It's time to stop kidding ourselves and saying that the same problems won't occur next time around, because if nothing is done, then they will occur again.

Drastic changes need to be made to the situation. Watching the Young Socceroos in Nigeria, it was apparent to me that there were often huge gaps in defence, which probably cost the team a place in the second round. At least three goals were the result of simple defensive errors.

If there is one area where the team needs to be improved, then it is defence. Since three overage players will be permitted at Sydney 2000, Raul Blanco should seriously consider bringing at least two of these into defence.

In my opinion, the best possible team for Sydney 2000 would be:

**Goalkeeper:** Mark Bosnich  
**Defenders:** Simon Colosimo  
Hayden Foxe  
Stan Lazaridis  
Craig Moore  
**Midfielders:** Brett Emerton  
Vince Grella  
Harry Kewell  
Nick Rizzo  
**Forwards:** Paul Agostino  
Mark Viduka

The three overage players I picked are Bosnich, Lazaridis and Moore. I think with Bosnich in goal, Australia will have perhaps the best goalkeeper at the tournament. Also, the same problems in defence should be minimised with the experience of Stan Lazaridis and Craig Moore guiding the team from the back.

The midfield was already of an acceptable quality at Nigeria '99 and with the inclusion of Kewell and Rizzo the Olyroos should perform even better there. I think it's time that the coaches and selectors have a good look at themselves because, they way things are going, Australia will once again perform well below expectations at Sydney 2000. It's time for some change.

Matt Haidn  
E-Mail

In the issue of 13/4/99 I read the column by Aidan Ormond. I can't agree more, it's time alright. Les' system never changes.

This time he even blamed the heat, the conditions, which are the same for everyone. I would have blamed the skill on the ball of the Mexicans, the spaces they created, some of the Mexican players were turning with the ball on a two cents coin.

The Irish? They went out to win, going for every ball at 100% and when one made a mistake, there was someone willing to help, they played as a team.

Let's get a coach who can create something new for the Young Socceroos. I think there are coaches here with enough experience to do that, someone young, but whatever happens, nothing would be better than a change.

There is no-one who would like to see Soccer progress than me, the opportunity is coming with the Olympics, so let's take it. We have produced champion teams in other sports, why not a champion soccer team?

J. Muscat  
Vic

## FIRST PAST THE POST HEIGHTENS EXCITEMENT

Nearly half-way through the Victorian Premier League and it is clear that this season's competition is the most even in years.

With the abolishment of the finals series, the league has gone back to the traditional first past the post system, making the league tighter and more competitive.

Four teams also go down this season as the Premier League heads to a 12 team summer competition for the year 2000.

Also out are NSL players on loan and the transfer deadline finished on March 31, to the ire of some clubs.

little surprise when Chris Taylor was relieved of his duties.

Zoran Trajceski came in and immediately produced results, though it did coincide with the arrival of three imports from Macedonia, Ace Vasilevski, Toni Trufunov and Zlatko Ristevski have all made a major impact on the Magic's form reversal, as has striker Zoran Todorovski who has scored 5 goals so far.

Things now look a little brighter at Paisley Park, unlike at the start of the season where they appeared they may be relegated.

### BENTLEIGH GREENS

Position (after round 11): 5th

Coach: Takis Svigos

Leading scorer: Juan Nilo - 5

Leading votes: Juan Nilo,  
John Papettas - 5

Bentleigh Greens have had a steady start to the year; not setting the world on fire but doing enough to keep out of relegation trouble.

But with things so tight on table, a little run of losses could become very costly.

The Greens have had five draws in their 11 matches, draw that they need to start converting into wins if they are to stay clear of the drop zone.

Coach Takis Svigos has a fairly settled side at

Leading scorer: Danny Gnjdic - 8

Leading votes: Paul Della Rocca - 9

A club used to success, and current Premier League champions, Bulleen are just about out of the championship race.

Poor form at home - they have only won once there this season after going unbeaten for over a year and a half at the Veneto Club - has been their major downfall.

The Kings squad, whilst very talented, appears very thin.

They have two good strikers in Danny Gnjdic and Vlad Babic but after those two, there isn't much in reserve.

The loss of Bulleen cult figure Eric Hollingsworth has been a big one. He gave the Kings something different from what Babic and Gnjdic, who are very similar in style, are giving.

They're only two points out of the relegation zone, but it will be a monumental shock if they go down.

### FAWKNER BLUES

Position (after round 11): 7th

Coach: Ken Murphy

Leading scorer: Tamer Simsek, Ivan Duzel, Peter Psarros, Frank Tramontana, Santo Emmanuele - 2  
Leading votes: Josip Biskic - 8

Fawkner, like Altona Magic, didn't get off to a great start but have since picked up and are now one of the toughest teams in the league to play against.

They didn't have all of their players to call upon at the beginning but now that has changed, their results are starting to improve dramatically.

Melbourne Knights coach Josip Biskic is only available sporadically, though when he does play you wonder why he isn't still playing for the Knights, he's been that good.

Biskic's midfield buddy, Ivan Duzel, is also a key player for the Blues, the Biskic-Duzel partnership is arguably the best in the league.

Santo Emmanuele is yet to recapture his goalscoring form from last season but he's been helped by Peter Psarros who returned to the club.

Should have the quality to stave off relegation.



### ALTONA EAST

Position (after round 11): 9th

Coach: Peter Ollerton

Leading scorer: George Angelos - 5  
Leading votes: Steven Bartol - 9

The Phoenix came up from the first division and have fared much better than their fellow promoted side, Westvale.

They started the season off well, with two victories in their first two games.

Since then they have fallen behind the pack a little, but their win last week, away to Bulleen, has seen them rise up the table.

Altona have good squad which was enhanced recently with four good signings.

The Catalano brothers, Len and former Collingwood and South Melbourne player, Frank, arrived just before the transfer deadline.

Also brought in were experienced defender John Dimitrelos from Green Gully and Port Melbourne goalkeeper San Frangos.

Frangos in particular has been in sensational form, almost single-handedly winning that game against Bulleen.

If the Phoenix are able to keep on the same track, it should be enough for them to avoid one of the four relegation spots.

### ALTONA MAGIC

Position (after round 11): 10th

Player/Coach: Zoran Trajceski

Leading scorer: Zoran Todorovski - 5  
Leading votes: Zoran Todorovski - 6

Altona Magic, three time Premier League champion in the 1990's, started off the season disastrously, losing their first four games.

As is the way in the Premier League, the coach usually pays for a slump with his job and it was



Gary Cole ... the ex-Socceroo is having a difficult year.

Bentleigh, recruits Cameron Pino (Carlton) and David Grella (Springvale City), have settled in well and have been good performers for the Greens.

### BULLEEN INTER KINGS

Position (after round 11): 6th

Coach: Gary Cole

Continued  
Page 8 ...



# Australian Features

## Drowning with the SHARKS!



Richie Alagich (foreground) with Con Kokkinopitis. Alagich likes to collect sea shells.



By Melissa Muscat

**W**hen Paul Souris spoke to Soccer Weekly recently we discovered he is not shy at expressing himself. So who better than the S-Man to take us swimming with the Sharks. Paul did our interview with the players for us and as you will read, the boys from the troubled Adelaide club have not let the off-field turmoil affect their joie de vivre...

**Favourite night spot:** The Grand. It goes off

**Favorite cafe:** The Eros Cafe (every-

thing free!)

**Favourite beach:** Glenelg — you'll often find Richie Alagich collecting shells

**Favourite shopping spot:** Rundle Mall

**Favourite sporting venue:** Football Park home of the AFL Crows.

### THEN WE GET PERSONAL ...

**Funniest team-mate:** Alex Castro and Hamilton Thorp.

**Quote of the season:** "You cracking jokes or what!"

**Funniest thing you've witnessed all season at training:** One night there was an electric storm and it made Manfred Schaefer's hair stands up to attention due

the static. The boys ended up on the floor laughing so Manfred had the last laugh and said, "While you're down there give me 4 sets of 50s. Ha! Ha! Which Adelaide Shark has the most unusual pet and what is it?"

**Alex Castro:** a pet ANT: he was inspired by the movie ANTZ!

**Who has the most unusual occupation or hobby outside of soccer and what is it?** Frank Tibaldi. He is a bus driver and collects aluminium cans in his spare time and Corey Artone is a dedicated stamp collector!!

**Who has ever had the most head-turning hairstyle and what was it?** The match against the Adelaide City, the whole team dyed their hair blue.

**Who's the worst singer?** Alex Duric after a win he can't even speak our language let alone sing.

**Who is the most musically talented?** Paul Pezos. He's always playing with his own instrument; and always playing the same tune.

**Who has the most unusual article of clothing and what is it?** Alex Castro's yellow jacket which he wears to nightclubs — we are convinced it's women repellent.

**Which of your team-mates is the most successful with the women?** None of us, were a bunch of ugly bastards.

**Who is the most romantic team-mate?** Danny Vidakovic — his ideal night out is romancing his girlfriend at Hungry Jacks with five Whopper burgers and fries.

**What is the best excuse you've heard this season for someone not training?** Corey Artone delivers pizzas and he reckons he got tied up and gagged while the three took off with the pizza, with the lot.

**Which team-mate is most likely to get hooked on daytime soaps?** John Gibson because he's always watching the evening ones. And in the mornings he's a regular Tele-Tubbies viewer.

**Who's got the brains of the team?** With out a doubt — me!

**Which Adelaide Shark can consume the most alcohol?** Hamilton Thorp his favourite drink is methylated spirits on the rocks! His nickname is the petrol tank: fill him up and watch him go.

**Are there any superstitions that the Sharks have as a team which they carry out before a game?** We all wear bright blue g-strings (back to front).

**Are there any celebrations which are trademark to the Sharks?** Our songs after a win. "We've got style, we've got flare. When the Sharks play, BEWARE!"

**Which team-mate is most likely to spend his winning bonus at the casino?** Derek Poimer plus whatever money he's got in his wallet.

**Have there been any outings where your team has got into any mischief?** If so, details:

One night we ended up at the 'Crazy Horse' and one thing led to another and we ended up providing the enter-

tainment on stage.

**What is it that has kept the Sharks together this season?** The hope there will be some money at training so we just keep turning up.

**Who would be most likely to get their nose, tongue or eyebrow pierced?** Hamilton Thorp because he is a wild thing!

**Which of your team-mates would we most likely see strutting his stuff on the catwalk?** Alex Castro — he'd be a great model for balacalava!

**Who would most likely wear a dress in public as part of a dare?** Read the response below and I'm sure throwing on a dress wouldn't be a problem.

**Which two Adelaide Sharks are inseparable and what's the craziest thing they've done together?** Hamilton Thorp and Alex Castro lost a dare and had to run around the block in just their soccer boots! (It was an ugly sight!)



Shark nudist Hamilton Thorp

**S**occer Weekly is proud to have brought to your attention the singing skills of Brisbane Strikers' Wayne Knipe (page 2). Now, we officially anoint Paul Souris as the poet laureate of the Ericsson Cup. His work evokes many emotions, there is light and shade and he speaks to us all in a very profound way. He penned 'Oh Brother' a few weeks ago (it's up for a literary award) and now he looks at the modern questions of struggle, love, the human condition and the barren emotional landscape of betrayal and longing...



Paul Souris ... Ericsson Cup poet.

### THE YEAR OF THE SHARKS

We swam together from coast to coast  
To form a team for our club to boast.

When we started the year  
We had a team that had no fear

We started ut of sight  
When the Sharks attacked we would bite

We circled our prey day or night  
Making sure our defence was tight.

Then the Sharks started to drown  
And the supporters started to frown.

We couldn't score we had no luck  
And other teams started running amuck.

Except for Wollongong we drilled them five-nil  
That was the teams biggest thrill.

Trouble started within the club  
And the players started hitting the pub

One or two was never enough  
We got pissed on the right stuff.

The bills kept rolling in  
It felt like the Sharks were swimming without a fin.

We all started gambling to make some money  
'But when we lost it wasn't funny.

The debts were getting bigger & bigger  
A few of the boys almost pulled the trigger.

Thank God the season has come to an end  
Because it sure drove us around the bend.

Next year we will be back to win  
Just remember: BEWARE OF THE FIN.

Paul Souris (unpublished)



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# Australian Features

## Sharks cruising but Cavaliers loom



### GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

Position (after round 11) : 2nd

Coach : Ian Dobson

Leading scorer : Zdravko

Atanasovski, Daniel Genovesi - 5

Leading votes : Colin Azzopardi - 7

Green Gully are a club who are desperate to win the Premier League.

Like last season, they were busy in the transfer market but unlike last year, they have started well in the league.

They brought in Ian Dobson, a coach who knows how to win championships to get them the title they haven't held since the early 1980s.

The Cavaliers are in with a very good shout of winning the competition, lying just three points behind leader Port Melbourne.

They have the quality and depth within their squad to mount a sustained challenge and its looks a though it will go right down to the wire.

### MELBOURNE RAIDERS

Position (after round 11) : 4th

Coach : Dusan Kalezic

Leading scorer : Nick Cuculeski - 7

Leading votes : Nick Cuculeski - 12

Melbourne Raiders, previously Thomastown, are in a position they aren't used to.

As Thomastown the club would invariably struggle at the wrong end of the table but are now in contention for the championship.

Nick Cuculeski, a shining light last year, is once again proving to be the Raiders' key man. His goals and general play out of midfield are so important to the Raiders.

But it's not a one man show. The likes of George Jolevski, Anthony Boschini, David Iacovitti and Pino Corallo make the Raiders a more than competitive outfit.

The Raiders, currently fourth on the table, still have a slim hope of winning the championship.

They will have to find a little more consistency and start turning some of those draws and losses into wins.

### PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS

Position (after round 11) : 1st

Player/Coach : Peter Tsolakis

Leading scorer : Peter Kakos - 11

Leading votes : George Tzirtzis,

Nick Tsaltas - 11

Port Melbourne only lost their first game very recently.

Suffice to say that they lead the competition, though the margin is slowly being whittled down the chasing pack.

The Sharks have headed the table from the word go but the loss against Preston showed that they are far from unbeatable.

Coach Peter Tsolakis has a terrific squad at his disposal and still has some players to come back into it from injury.

Two of their signings in the off-season, Peter Kakos and George Tzirtzis have performed extremely well in their first season in the Premier League, Kakos heads the goalscorers table with 11.

Port have a tricky few games coming up. If they negotiate these without any trouble, they will set themselves up for a major shot at the big prize.

### PRESTON LIONS

Position (after round 11) : 3rd

Coach : Vlado Vanis

Leading scorer : Warren Spink - 5

Leading votes : Warren Spink - 11

On their day, Preston are as good as any other team in the league.

Finding consistency has been their problem though, losing games that they shouldn't, and then turning around and beating the likes of Port Melbourne.

Even though they've lost four times this season, they are very much a part of the championship race.

They have an excellent side and a terrific coach in Vlado Vanis.

Former Soccerroo striker Warren Spink

has been excellent as has skipper Chris Emovski and defenders Sasa Ognenovski and Anton Kovacic.

If Preston can start turning some their losses, like against South Dandenong and St Albans into wins, then there is no reason why they shouldn't be in the hunt at the end of the year.

### SOUTH DANDENONG

Position (after round 11) : 12th

Player/Coach : Fadil Muriqi

Leading scorer : Reshat

Mezensof - 5

Leading votes : Carlo Villani - 8

South Dandenong are another team who have a problem with consistently performing at their best.

At their best, they're a match for most teams in the league, at their worst however, they are beaten too easily.

They made some smart signings at the start of the season and their first few games suggested they might be a team who were going to take some beating.

It is at home, in front of their large crowds that South Dandy should be at their best, yet they've won only once there.

Their come-from-behind 4-3 win over Preston a couple of weeks ago illustrates just how well they can play, but producing that sort of performance regularly seems beyond them at the moment.

Realistically, they are only four points off fourth spot and there is still a lot of time for them to get their act together.

### SPRINGVALE WHITE EAGLES

Position (after round 11) : 11th

Coach : Bobby McLachlan

Leading scorer : Zlatko Mihajlovic - 5

Leading votes : Zlatko Mihajlovic - 14

Bobby McLachlan came in to replace Milos Nastic as coach after a poor start that saw them entrenched at the wrong end of the ladder.

They are capable of upsetting big teams. Just two weeks ago they went to Green Gully and won there.

But there are doubts whether they can keep these sort of results coming.

Zlatko Mihajlovic is very much the key player for the White Eagles.

His performances so far have been the difference between them winning and losing games. In a squad that has very little depth, Mihajlovic staying injury and suspension free is crucial to the White Eagles' hopes of staying up.

Whether they have the quality in their squad to avoid the drop remains to be seen.

### ST ALBANS SAINTS

Position (after round 11) : 8th

Coach : Vid Horvat

Leading scorer : Harry Karl - 9

Leading votes : Ivan Razov - 11

Last season's runners-up have had a topsy-turvy year so far, but haven't quite come close to reproducing the form that took them to the Grand Final.



Harry Karl ... the brilliant Saint.

Coach Steve Rastocic was removed early on in the piece and replaced by former Melbourne Knights coach Vid Horvat.

They looked as though they would struggle after losing Harry Karl, Paul Magdic and Jason Vukadin to the Knights.

Karl returned and is the Saints' key player. Last season, his goals propelled the Saints to the Grand Final and, with nine already this year, he is going to have a big say in the Saints' fortunes again.

Other players are playing their part though. Ivan Razov has done well in his first season of Premier League and Damian Vojtek is also an important figure.

### SUNSHINE GEORGIES

Position (after round 11) : 14th

Player/Coach : John Kanesoulis

Leading scorer : Alfonso Opazo - 4

Leading votes : Alfonso Opazo - 5

One of the most famous names in Victorian soccer are in grave danger of being relegated from the Premier League.

Sunshine currently hold up the table and things don't look to be getting any better.

Anthony Cassar didn't last long as coach before John Kanesoulis took over. His results, with a fairly ordinary squad haven't been great and the Georgies need to start winning now or face first division soccer next year.

About the only thing the Georgies can look forward to is the return of Anthony Magnacca.

Magnacca, on loan to Canberra Cosmos, was the star last year, but it is unlikely that even he can save them from dropping down a division.

### WESTVALE

Position (after round 11) : 13th

Coach : Michael Urukalo

Leading scorer : Angie Goutzioulis - 6

Leading votes : Angie Goutzioulis, Adrian Pender - 4

Westvale are also in a precarious position, one spot off the foot of the table and with still some way to go before they are safe.

Coach Phil Stubbins paid for some poor results with his job and in came Michael Urukalo in an attempt to steer the club away from danger.

Urukalo's first game in charge was a win last Monday week, something Westvale need to make a regular habit of if they're not to go straight back down.

On paper, their squad appears to quite a good one and they improved even further with the deadline-beating signings of Sash Markovski from Preston and Zoran Cvetkovski from Springvale White Eagles.

Whether all these changes can help Westvale to safety though is very doubtful.

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# Australian Features



**The Four Diegos continue their VW Combi Van tour by dropping in on a legend. Adelaide City and Socceroo defender, captain and inspiration ... Alex Tobin**



**D**iegos: "Congratulations on reaching the 400 game milestone against the Adelaide Sharks. Unfortunately your special day was soured by your team's 1-0 loss. Obviously Zoran Matic's cry to 'Do It For Tobs' couldn't motivate the guys. Was it just another game for you or were you affected at all by the occasion?"

Tobin: "It was just another game. I think the importance of the game was more in the result that we needed rather than my milestone. It was a big day for myself but that didn't take away from the fact that we desperately needed the three points to cement a spot in the top six. We weren't good enough to win so in that respect it was a pretty disappointing day."

Diegos: "When your coach, Zoran Matic finally hangs up his clipboard, he will go down as one of the all time great Australian National League coaches. You've spent much of your 400 games playing under him. What influence has he had on your career and is he more like a stern dad to you now or a knock about mate?"

Tobin: "He is more of a stern dad. I don't think he is terribly 'matey' with any of the players or with many people for that matter. He is a very stern type who knows what he wants and is adamant that he will get what he wants and everybody has to



basically toe the line. The Adelaide City players respect him for his approach. He has a method and he is very firm about creating a style of play where everybody is tuned in with each other. He has had the results over the years, so you can't question that."

Diegos: "After the 'Tragedy of 97' the Socceroos performed very well in the 1998 Confederations Cup, reaching the final and getting beaten by the great Brazil. In that tournament you played on the awesome Ronaldo. How different is he to other great players that you have played against and in that final, when he ran amok, did you at any stage hope that he would have a little convulsive fit to slow him down a bit?"

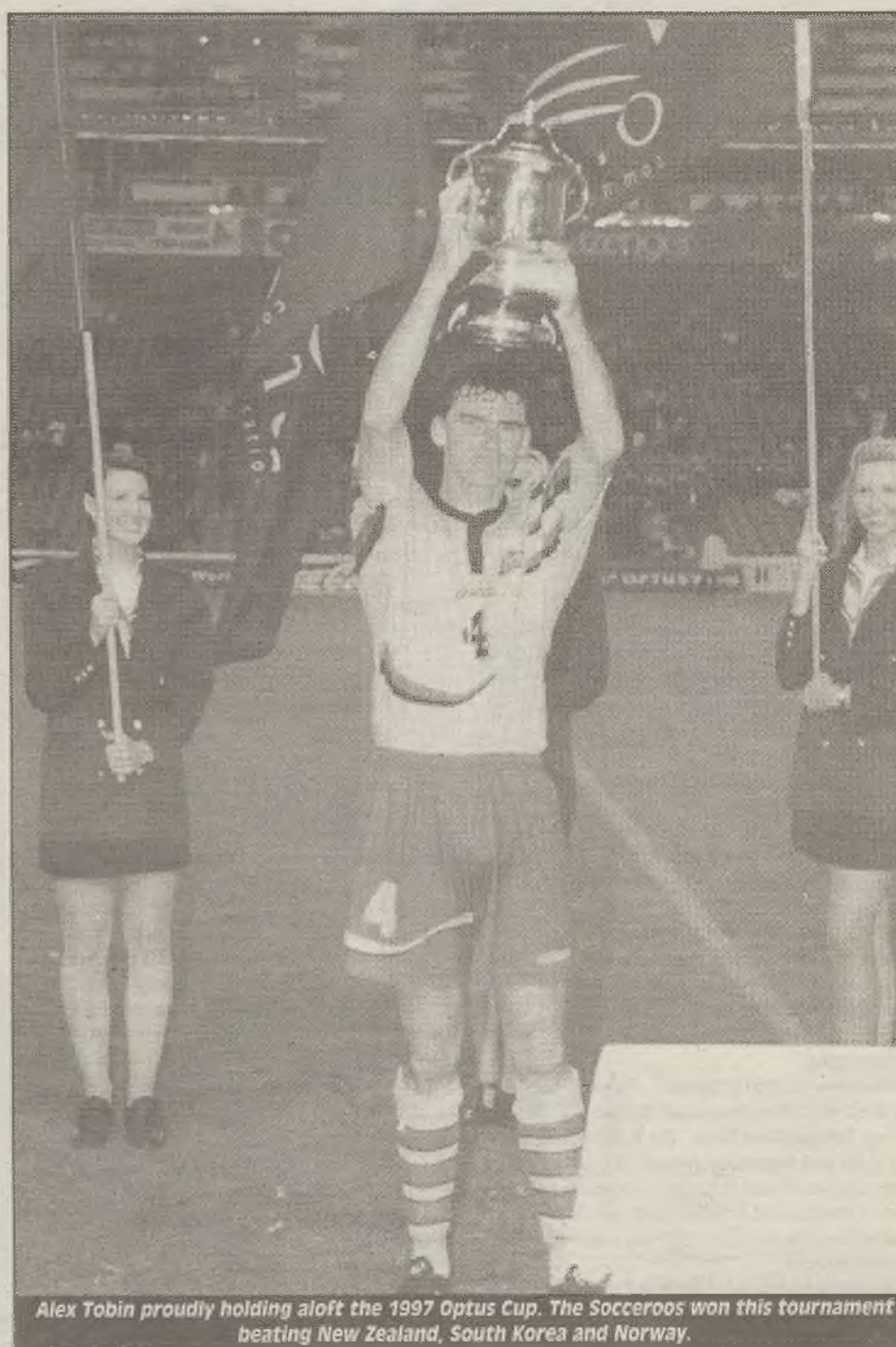
Tobin: "When I played against Ronaldo in that tournament especially in the first game, when we held them to a 0-0 draw. I think I played quite well. When people talk about Brazil they talk about having to mark Ronaldo out of the game. What people fail to recognise is that the other 10 Brazilians out on the pitch aren't too bad either. They are very good at supplying Ronaldo and the team's other star forwards. It was a great occasion for me to have played against him. He ranks as one of the best strikers in the world so it was certainly an honour. They are such a fantastic team that you have to guard yourself from clapping out on the pitch at some of the things they can do with the ball."

Diegos: "You have announced that you still intend continuing with the Socceroos until the next World Cup. Some say that you are no spring chicken anymore. What is the driving force for you to continue at that level?"

Tobin: "I think my motivation is to make the World Cup. It's something any soccer player, especially any Australian soccer player, dreams of doing. It's also something that means a lot to the game in this country. If I can be any part of qualifying for the next World Cup, I'll certainly be a very happy man. The disappointment of the Iran game is double motivation to go one World Cup more. Let's hope that we can get there."

Diegos: "A hypothetical question Alex. Visualise this scenario: As a result of a Zoran Matic life threatening tongue lashing, you have an out of body experience. As you get drawn closer to the bright white light and your soccer life flashes before you, what do you see?"

Tobin: "It's hard to say. I am very content with how my career has gone. I've been quite happy with the games that I have been involved in, the amount of travel that I have been able to do and the fact that I have been able to represent and captain my country. They are some of the things that I would imagine would flash through my mind. I don't tend to concentrate too much on what



Alex Tobin proudly holding aloft the 1997 Optus Cup. The Socceroos won this tournament beating New Zealand, South Korea and Norway.

**The Four Diegos radio soccer show can be heard in Melbourne on 97.4 FM Saturday 10-12 midday**

**E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com.**

has come. After I have retired, I can maybe think about the games in the past but at the moment, I'm more focused on what Adelaide City has to do this year and what the Socceroos can hopefully do over the next couple of years."

Diegos: "Thanks Alex. Let's hope that the Adelaide City boys can 'Do it for Tobs' and make it to the finals this year. Adios amigo!"

Tobin: "Thanks Diegos. If my stern dad has got anything to do with it, - we're already there. Adios amigos!"



# SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MAR IN CANBERRA

## ALISON IS FORMAN MATERIAL

**A**lison Forman put a successful career in Denmark on hold to return to Australia and join her Matildas teammates on scholarship at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

Despite her years of success and experience for Australia and top Danish club Fortuna Hjørring, the 30-year-old remains humble and unpretentious in her attitude. Her drive and focus and insatiable thirst for knowledge and improvement in her game is inspirational.

Forman's return has added another dimension to the Matildas lineup, her drive also reflected on the field in her never-say-die approach to the game. An exceptional worker in the middle of the park, Forman plays hard and is feared for her crunching tackles. But the hard stuff is perfectly blended with her graceful touch on the ball, balanced and in tune, and complemented with great vision and anticipation.

Her dedication was just as clearly illustrated when she was left at home during the recent Algarve Cup, sidelined by a posterior cruciate strain to her knee suffered in the last round of national league. By herself as the only AIS on-site Resident not to go on tour, Forman was tireless in her mission to get her leg back on track. Restricted by a full-length brace for two weeks, she then embarked on the hard yards of rehabilitation which she completed in the minimum period of four weeks. "I don't deal with having one day off from training. I wanted to do as much as I could, so I worked four or five times a day on rehab. I just wanted to get back and on the park."

A mere five weeks remain before the team departs for the World Cup. The pressure must surely be mounting amongst the players who train together six days per week with selection foremost in everyone's mind. Forman reveals that the feeling within the ranks is positive.

"Everyone is really keen," she explains. "Everyone has been putting in all the effort since January or last year, whatever the case, and now the World Cup is getting closer, people are getting a bit nervous now with Greg soon picking the team. But it's a good nervous quality. For instance, training this morning was one of the best we've had - it's more concentrated, it's not just training. There are good vibes around, players helping each other out, and the talk is encouraging."

"Everyone is totally focused. People talk about the 2000 Olympics all the time, and that will be huge because it's at home. But in soccer, the World Cup is the most important, I believe. It's just around the corner and we all want to be there - the young ones who haven't experienced it before, and the older players who've played in one or two previous campaigns. It's a good atmosphere."

Not that egos have not been tested to the max. This last month since returning from the break after the Algarve Cup has been particularly hard going. Heavy physical work at a higher intensity than previously required and a heavier schedule of three weight sessions per week.

Continual goalsetting is a vital part of Forman's personal football regime. Apart from the obvious longer term World Cup and Olympic aims, Forman sets herself goals for each week, and for each training session. The video analysis sessions which are now a part of individual and team training help to determine those aspects players need to work on.

The players will know their fate on 14 May when National Coach Greg Brown names Australia's twenty-member World Cup Team. This allows a fortnight's work together as a unit finetuning and working on specific plays.

Forman, along with eight of her current teammates,

was part of that historic team of 1995, the first Australian women's team to compete at the World Cup finals. They more than anyone can appreciate the value of international experience and solid preparation, something today's Matildas possess in their arsenal. Forman made her international debut in 1989 against Japan. The difference between now and years past is so vast. The resources available to teams back then were the bare basics.

"It's really so difficult to compare. I've been in the

contracts operate.

Women's football is simply part of Danish life, girls starting up at age four or five and working their way up through the ranks. Fortuna Hjørring, a women's club, has itself approximately forty teams, spanning over all ages.

Forman compares that to her early days in Northern NSW's Raymond Terrace when she had no choice but to play in a senior competition.

Well established in Denmark, the decision to return to Canberra was therefore not a simple one. There was her club, her job, her friends, her lifestyle. Her

choice to now be living in the AIS Halls of Residence is certainly not one she regrets.

"It was a tough decision to start with. After seven years, Denmark was more or less my home. But at the end of the day, all I want is to play for the National Team and to do the best for the team. With a full-time program, I wanted to be part of that. You can't just go in at fifty percent."

The football part was easy, it was probably more the cultural transition which took some readjustment for Forman. "I went overseas in 1992, at age 22 still pretty young, and made whole life changes - different language, different lifestyle. But I'm always going to be an Aussie - over there, they called me Crazy Aussie - you can't change someone's nationality. It was a bit strange coming back at first. I was still thinking in Danish, but you soon fall back into it."

"I like living in Residences and it's the easiest thing for me at the moment, as I've got nothing here - furniture or anything. But apart from that, I would still live in. Everything is here at your fingertips - no cooking, washing up, training is close. And when you're training so intensely, it's so much easier."

In Denmark, Forman worked as International Secretary for the Dana Cup, the world's second largest annual international youth tournament. In its biggest

**She is the 'Crazy Aussie' of Danish soccer, but it's all serious for Alison Forman as she strives for Matilda selection at the upcoming World Cup...**

Australian Team since 1989 and you just can't compare the two. Back then, you would maybe get together for a week and then go on tour. Now with a full-time program, everything's just so professional. In 1995, I don't think we were fully prepared to go on the world stage. But it was a good experience for the players to taste, to see where the level is. This year, with all the build-up and the pre-matches, we know where we're at."

So obviously we are far better equipped to take our place at the World Cup this time around. But what are our prospects against the very best in a big time situation. What do the players themselves feel can be achieved in USA '99?

"I think Australia can go a long way - we can make surprises," says Forman. "When you look at the other teams, they may be very athletic, but the Europeans play a long ball game. We play a skilful game and, player to player, we are as good as USA and China. On the day, we've just got to stick together, hold it together and support each other."

Keeping in touch with her Danish National Team friends, Forman says they hold a new respect for the Aussies since the Algarve Cup 1-1 draw, a big improvement on the 5-0 drubbing handed down by the Danish at the 1995 World Cup, the last meeting between the two. Forman also believes the Danish association has not moved forward in comparison to the Australian's elite program.

Forman is a success story in the Danish league, the Aussie more than making her mark at a club where players must be at National Team level to gain a contract.

Julie Murray and Carol Vinson had forged the way, first offered positions at Fortuna in 1990, and Murray then recommended Forman to the club. The opening was the solution Forman had been searching for.

The midfielder cum defender ended up playing seven seasons for Fortuna Hjørring, picking up a swag of titles along the way. 1994 to 1996 proved a purple patch, the club winning the Danish championship in consecutive years, plus two Nordic championships, and one Cup title. The club never finished below third during Forman's tenancy. Forman herself was honoured as Player of the Year for 1997, and is the first 'foreigner' to play more than 100 matches for the club.

Fortuna was instrumental in gaining contracts for female players, taking the matter to the anti-discrimination board and using Forman as an example.

Contracts did not exist previously, and women footballers were classed as semi-professional, provided with an apartment and match payments and assisted in finding work. About one and a half years ago, the case was won and now most of the top clubs contract their players. As well as benefitting the players, it provides financial security for the club when other clubs are on the transfer market. Fortuna's contracted players receive a flat rate for playing for the year, plus an apartment and win bonuses, similar to the way men's



Alison Forman ... the Matildas' Danish League star

year, the event attracted 850 teams from 47 countries, 85 percent of whom would speak English. Forman provided the English-Danish link within the huge job of coordinating the event. Forman today continues much of her role with the Dana Cup, providing correspondence and translations from Canberra by email or phone.

In anticipation of her return to Denmark after the Olympics, her bosses are keeping her job on hold.

Although absent from the Algarve Cup, Forman believes the experience was a positive one for the team, leading into the World Cup. "This is the first time Australia had been picked to play in the Algarve, which is like a mini World Cup really. The most important thing for us was to get a gauge of ourselves against other top teams. By going there, we could see where we were at that stage. The results were not top class but we only lost one match, and we could have won a couple of the others. China are a top class team and we played one of our best games against them."

"So the basis is there. We have something to work on, to build on. People went thinking we're at this level, but now we know we can do better and there's room for improvement. The stage is now set - I think we can surprise at the World Cup."

## OPEN NATIONALS IN MALAYSIA

**T**he 1999 AWSA National Open Championship will be held offshore for the first time, in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur.

The Championship will be held at the Police Training Center, 17-23 October 1999.

In essence, apart from the location, the format will remain close to normal championship regulations, and the title of AWSA National Open Champion will be awarded concurrently with the Australasian Cup. The Ladies Football Association of Malaysia will form a joint organising committee with the AWSA for the conduct of the tournament.

The Malaysian and Singapore National Teams have confirmed their participation and will compete against teams nominated by AWSA member states.

In addition to the normal benefits of quality competition, participation, and camaraderie very much a part of the Open championship, holding the event in this developing Asian nation will help to

foster international sporting relations, and assist in the development of the women's game in this region for players, coaches, and officials alike. The opportunity for state teams to pit themselves against emerging Asian teams and their differing styles and tactics will add another dimension to the competition.

For those keen to explore the added cultural aspects of travelling overseas, Malaysia offers a tropical climate and a rich rainforest environment and is well-priced as a popular tourist destination. With varying historical European influences, Malaysia has a fascinating array of towns and architecture. Kuala Lumpur itself is an exciting mix of old and new, and eastern and western cultures. Shoppers will not be disappointed either, with KL one of the best priced on electronic goods and fashion.

State associations must submit their team's nomination to the AWSA before 30 June 1999. No nomination fee is applicable.

Tim Hodgson of Leisure Events in Western Australia has been appointed to coordinate travel and accommodation requirements for the Australian teams. Mr Hodgson may be contacted by phone or fax on (08)9201.1595.



# MAY IS... ERICSSON CUP FINALS

## THIS WEEK

(Finals Series: Week 1)

**Friday 30 April**  
**Northern Spirit v**  
**Marconi**  
North Sydney Oval

**Sunday 2 May**  
**Adelaide City v**  
**Perth Glory**  
Hindmarsh Stadium

Please note, these fixtures are supplied by Soccer Australia, and are correct at time of printing. Please check local guides in case of changes. We accept no responsibility for any late changes to fixtures, or incorrect information supplied to us.

## RESULTS ROUND 30

Canberra Cosmos	0
Gippsland Falcons	0
Wollongong Wolves	3
Perth Glory	3
Adelaide City	1
Sydney Olympic	0
Marconi Fairfield	1
Northern Spirit	0
Brisbane Strikers	1
Newcastle Breakers	2
Sydney United	3
Adelaide Sharks	1
Melbourne Knights	2
Carlton SC	1
Bye South Melbourne	

## FINAL ERICSSON CUP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	28	18	4	6	53	33	58
South Melbourne	28	17	6	5	50	26	57
Perth Glory	28	16	5	7	62	37	53
Marconi Fairfield	28	15	3	10	53	47	48
Northern Spirit	28	14	4	10	36	35	46
Adelaide City	28	13	6	9	39	26	45
Sydney Olympic	28	12	7	9	46	36	43
Newcastle Breakers	28	11	7	10	29	33	40
Brisbane Strikers	28	11	6	11	41	47	39
Wollongong Wolves	28	8	8	12	45	52	52
Carlton SC	28	9	4	15	47	47	31
Melbourne Knights	28	8	5	15	32	43	29
Adelaide Sharks	28	7	6	15	36	46	27
Gippsland Falcons	28	5	10	13	17	44	25
Canberra Cosmos	28	4	3	21	21	55	15







# ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 29  
24-25 APRIL  
1999

## LEST WE FORGET

### MARCONI

AWARITEFE 11

### NORTHERN SPIRIT

At Marconi Stadium, Sydney

1

0

By Bonnie Mersiades

As the going down of the sun over the western plains of suburban Bossley Park, we remembered them. Those who, over the century, have sacrificed their young adulthood and life so that, amongst other things, 10,117 people could enjoy a battle of a very different kind. The lucky country indeed.

At the end of the match, Northern Spirit coach, Graham Arnold, admitted that there was already a history of intense rivalry between Spirit and Marconi.

But above all else, the winner in such cross-town rivalry is clearly the National Soccer League competition, particularly when there's the added spice of the new team of 'silvertails' from the North Shore up against the long-established multicultural melting pot that represents today's Marconi.

It makes for an interesting tussle between respective management, as well as for a highly-competitive and entertaining match on the park.

With the ubiquitous dancing girls, known as the Stallionettes, strutting their stuff, an impressive display of half-time fireworks and a Brazilian band on the one hand (not to mention the sequined Stallion), as well as a loyal and stalwart band of Northern Spirit 'Bob Standers' (some of whom were dressed in Hawaiian shirts especially for the occasion) and a capacity crowd, Marconi Stadium was full of atmosphere and colour.

And the teams didn't disappoint.

With pride, and a final position after 30 long weeks of competition, to play for, both teams were keen for victory.

"It's a big thing for the Club to finish in the Top 6," said Farina. "Obviously, having secured a spot last week, our preference was to finish 4th and to do that we had to win."

Both coaches opted to rest key players — either because of close-calls on yellow cards or niggling injuries. Marconi were without captain Brad Maloney, Dominic Longo and Mike Smith; while Northern Spirit were without captain Robbie Slater, Clayton Zane, Robbie Enes, Mark Rudan and Ian Crook.

Northern Spirit's youth team player, Anthony Faria, made his NSL debut.

Northern Spirit played their characteristic high-possession football, creating chances but with a low conversion rate.

On the other hand, Marconi was satisfied with making forays into the Northern Spirit half on the counter-attack. The fine and cool conditions, and the even surface of the pitch, particularly favoured the ball-playing skills of Northern Spirit's stand-in captain, Kresimir Marusic, who turned on an impressive display throughout the first half.

Marusic was instrumental in creating opportunities for Spirit.

Northern Spirit also appeared to have a separate game going with Marconi's stand-in captain, Francis Awaritefe, who was the centre of quite close attention from some of Spirit's big defenders.

However, Franny had the last laugh when he scored the only goal of the match in the 32nd minute after out-jumping his markers to glance a Trajanovski cross into the back of the net off the right upright.

The fact that the goal was scored right in front of Northern Spirit's 'Bob Standers' made it even more pleasant for Awaritefe who, of course, wasn't backward in letting them know!

Marconi almost had a second goal when a sweetly-taken left-foot free kick from Brendan Renaud shaved the top bar in the 37th minute.

No doubt at half-time, both dressing rooms thought they were in with a chance of taking the three points and finishing fourth on the Ericsson Cup ladder. Even though Northern Spirit had the predominance of possession, it would be unfair to say that Marconi's goal went against the run of play. Marconi showed patience and professionalism in



Awaritefe scored the only goal of the game in the 32nd minute

keeping to their task.

Both teams were determined to go on with it in the second half, and each had a corner within the first three minutes of the half.

Paul Foster and Daniel Watkins missed early second-half chances for Northern Spirit, and soon after Foster put a volley over the bar from close range — Arnold substituted him for Young Socceroos defender, Eddy Bosnar, and moved himself up-front.

This, at least, gave Northern Spirit something to aim for i.e. the famous Arnold head — but Arnie also showed that former Socceroo legends have off-days when one of his shots also careered over the bar. Another Arnold attempt was brilliantly saved by Covic who seems to be returning to his old form just at the right end of the season.

It was a tough encounter, with the ball trading possession quite often and with both teams playing an open style of game. It certainly gave the large, and good-natured, crowd something to cheer about. (In fact, so good-natured were some of the crowd that a few people were barracking for both teams!

### MATCH STATS ...

Crowd: 10,117

Referee: Gerry Connolly

Marconi: Covic, Gibson, M Babic, Kim, Care, McDonald (Zoric, 70m), Awaritefe, Farah, Renaud, Trajanovski (S Babic, 40), Hooker

Northern Spirit: Henderson, Casserly, Marusic, Arnold, Moss, Foster (Bosnar, 63), Watkins, Bilokapic, Cunica (Mendez, 85), Bingley, Fana

Yellow:  
Gibson, Bilokapic

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: Awaritefe (M)  
2: Marusic (NS)  
1: Renaud (M)

The teams will meet each other over the first two legs of the semi-finals, and will back-up from today's meeting within five days to meet at North Sydney Oval on Friday night.

"I'd much rather be playing Marconi than Perth Glory," Arnold said at the end of the match. "Perth Glory would be a far tougher proposition."

"We played today's game as if it was a semi-final, and if we got an away result of only 1-0 against us in a semi-final, I'd be happy."

He added that with so many first team players out, he was satisfied with the team's performance and was particularly pleased with Anthony Faria's debut game.

Frank Farina said he doesn't mind which team Marconi meets in the finals.

"I've always said it's a new competition and, while numbers 1 and 2 have the better chance of going all the way, we're all in there with a chance."

"We're looking forward to going to North Sydney Oval next Friday and performing much better than we did earlier in the season," he said.

Marconi lost 0-4 to Northern Spirit at North Sydney Oval in January.

"That was a disappointing result, but there were reasons for it. All the boys and I are looking forward to the finals."

In summary, it was an uncompromising, close-fought and competitive encounter which suggests that, along with minor premiers Sydney United, Sydney-siders are in for a feast of fabulous finals football over the next five weeks.

## "CAN'T WAIT TO GO ON HOLIDAY"

### CANBERRA COSMOS

0

### GIPPSLAND FALCONS

0

At Bruce Stadium, Canberra

By Nick Guoth

In a dour struggle at Bruce Stadium on Saturday afternoon, the two bottom teams, Canberra Cosmos and Gippsland Falcons, played out a boring 0-0 draw.

Many a nil-all draw has been an exciting game. This was not one of them.

The two 'keepers were only brought into play once each. That was the extent of the goalmouth action.

Gippsland coach, Stuart Munro, probably summed up the whole game perfectly when he said of his own players "our guys could not wait to get on holidays."

Yet to say the game was even, is definitely incorrect. The home team, Canberra, had nearly all of the possession. Only for around 25 minutes of the second half did Gippsland threaten.

Canberra midfielder Ivo DeJesus had a few early chances but shot wide. Then just over the quarter of an hour, the first shot on goal. DeJesus took the ball to the line and layed it back for Peter Buljan. Seeing no shot on he passed to Leo Langone who brought the best out of Bojo Jevdjovic.

Both sides saw numerous possibilities disappear through poor crossing of the ball. For Gippsland this was more of a problem as their main target was Marko Perinovic. Any time the ball came near him though, either Danny Burt or Ivan Zelic was there to challenge.

The only other shot on target for the half came from Gabriel Gonzalez after Peter Buljan set him up, but this was blocked by a defender away for a corner.

It wasn't until ten minutes into the second half when Gippsland had their first shot in anger. This was

the dominance of Canberra and the solidity of their defence.

After another ten minutes Levent Osman cleared off the line after Lindsay Wilson and Gonzalez played a one-two and Wilson's shot beat Jevdjovic.

Yet Gippsland were starting to finally get into the game. A Brian MacNicol cross found Osman to lay back for Sandy Robertson to shoot. Unfortunately the ball sailed over the bar.

In the final minutes, Perinovic nearly stole the game for Gippsland with a header only to see it pass the wrong side of the woodwork.

Canberra coach Tom Sermani said "we had spells of quite good football, but we needed to score a goal. We created some decent chances."

Stuart Munro stated "today we didn't deserve to win the game. It was not a good performance."

"Although we picked it up a little in the second half, I haven't seen them play as bad as in the first half."

### MATCH STATS ...

Referee M Breeze

Crowd: 1676

Canberra Cosmos: Knezevic, Burt, Wilson (Arranz 71), Zelic, Marcina, Langone, Miglietti (Purdue 27), Roberts, DeJesus, Gonzalez (Prenzoski 74)

Gippsland Falcons: Jevdjovic, Hopkins, Osman, MacNicol, Bell, Robertson, Canosa, Perinovic, Vargas, Hastie (Puca 75), Becvinovski (Hutchison 76)

Yellow Cards:  
CC: Gonzalez (70)(CC)  
GF: Vargas (26), Canosa (50), Hopkins (58)

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: Burt (CC)  
2: Bell (GF)  
1: Roberts (CC)





# ERICSSON CUP

**WEEK 30**  
**24-25 APRIL**  
**1999**

## NEWCASTLE BREAK THEIR RECORD

**NEWCASTLE BREAKERS** **2**  
**Pryce p.76, Ritchie 78**  
**BRISBANE STRIKERS** **1**  
**Harper 8**  
**At Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane**

By Glenn Davis

**A** controversial penalty steered Newcastle Breakers to an upset 2-1 win over Brisbane Strikers at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday.

The Strikers, who led 1-0 at half-time, looked in complete control and headed for a well deserved win until referee Jeff Tippert changed the complexion of the game with two controversial rulings.

Tippert awarded Newcastle a penalty in the 76th minute after ruling Strikers goalkeeper Danny Duke had brought down Newcastle striker John Buonavoglia on the corner of the box.

Many at the ground clearly believed Duke, playing his first Ericsson Cup match, had taken the ball cleanly from Buonavoglia's feet and the striker had "dived".

Defender Shane Pryce stepped up and hammered the spot kick past Duke's outstretched left hand.

Pryce's goal cancelled out the Strikers half-time 1-0 lead earned with one of the team's best moves of the

season

Midfielder Kasey Wehrman played a long ball to forward Stu McLaren whose first time layoff fell perfectly for striker Andy Harper to drive home from inside the box.

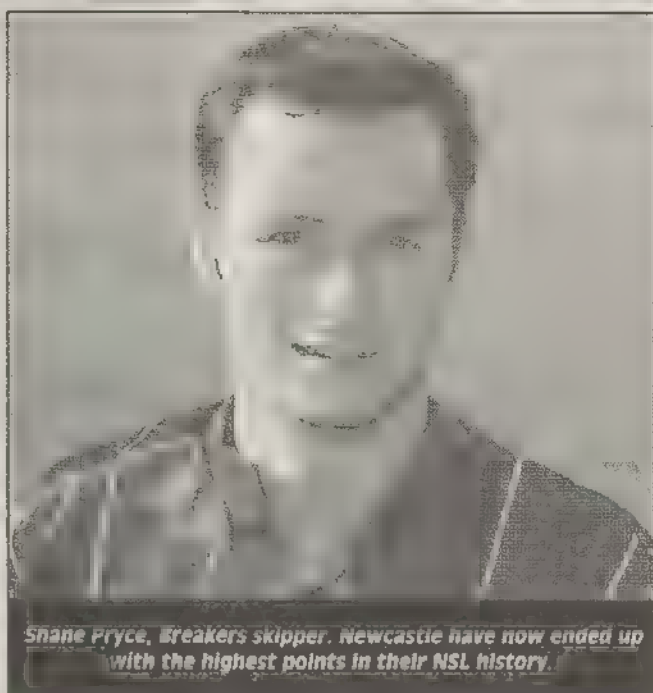
Newcastle, which rarely threatened for three quarters of the match, took a shock lead two minutes after its equaliser when substitute Peter Ritchie tapped in from close range to finish off a low cross from Glenn Sprod.

Referee Tippert was heckled soon after Newcastle hit the front when he failed to award the Strikers a penalty when Wehrman appeared to be brought down in the box.

Strikers coach John Kosmina has now lost twice this season against his former club.

"I was happy with the way we played and we certainly were not outplayed," Kosmina said.

Kosmina came to Newcastle from Brisbane at the start of the season on a two year agreement, but rumours emanating from south of the border this



Shane Pryce, Breakers skipper. Newcastle have now ended up with the highest points in their NSL history.

week had him on shaky ground for next season.

However, Strikers general manager Ray Evans said Kosmina's position was not in question, saying the speculation was mere mischief-making from southerners.

### MATCH STATS ...

Referee: Jeff Tippert

Crowd: 3,463

**Strikers:** Duke, Gwynne, Zoricich (Davidson 68m), Laybutt, Harper (Hughes 73m), Wehrman, McLaren, Knipe, Hews (Bell 73m), Meredith, Steffanutto

**Newcastle:** Catlin, Pryce, Roberts Sanderson, McManus, Wilson (Yoon 59m), Buonavoglia, Umi, Weczorek (Sprod 16m), Shannon, Haythornthwaite (Ritchie 65m)

### Yellow Cards:

Strikers Duke 75m Meredith 88m

### Votes for Player of the Year:

3: Hews (BS)  
2: Wehrman (BS)  
1: Sprod (NB)

For Brisbane Strikers, Wehrman underlined his courage to be one of the best players from both sides.

Wehrman was knocked out in a training mishap on Saturday when he collided with McLaren's knee.

The Soccerroo midfielder suffered memory loss and was only cleared to play on Sunday morning after being taken to hospital for a precautionary cat scan.

## VIDUKA STAND TREATED TO FINE WIN

**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS** **2**  
**Kutlesovski 14, Jolic 24**  
**CARLTON** **1**  
**Colosimo 5**  
**At Knights Stadium, Melbourne**

By Patrick Tomson

**T**hree spectacular first half goals capped off an eventful end of season derby, with Melbourne Knights taking the evening's honours over a mercurial Carlton outfit.

A healthy crowd at the Knights Stadium on Sunday witnessed the official opening of the Mark Viduka Stand followed by an impressive 2-1 performance for the home side, which was a positive culmination to an embattled season.

Carlton on the other hand have been at the fore front of a full time professional set up, however, their on-field performances of late have possibly left the new owners with a bitter aftertaste which may have also aired the prospect of some changes.

Carlton were without Cervinski who is currently trialing in Singapore and Douglas who is suspended, while the Knights missed Kelic from suspension also.

With Carlton's Simon Colosimo back from the Youth World Cup, his inclusion brought an almost immediate impact on the game.

Playing in a more attacking role in midfield, an unmarked Colosimo received the ball near the edge of the attacking 18 yard box. A sweeping left foot shot, curled over the flatfooted defence and rebounded off the inside of the upright into the net. Knight keeper Martin John could only watch the 5th minute goal transpire as did the majority of the stunned crowd.

With little time to absorb Colosimo's superb solo effort, the Knights created what should have been their first goal. Ransford Banini tore apart the Carlton defence with a penetrating through ball to the advancing Zeljko Susa. He unselfishly squared the ball to Tom Pondeljak who found himself with only the keeper to beat. However, Carlton's keeper Dean Anastasiadis displayed quick reflexes and managed to deflect the shot onto the crossbar and away for a corner.

The Knights' Susa found himself having to play

provider again, this time laying off to Ice Kutlesovski attacking the right flank. His darting run led to a wall of defenders just outside the 18 yard box where he cleverly turned onto his left foot and let fly with a thunderous low drive. A blurred ball flew past the outstretched arm of Anastasiadis, and rattled the inside netting for the Knights 15th minute equaliser.

More was to come of the gripping football in the 24th minute. Melbourne Knights were beginning to take a hold on the game and again Susa had a part to play in his side's second goal.

Taking the ball through midfield Susa delicately used the outside of his boot to slide the ball to Ivan Jolic. Somewhat inspired by the first goal, Jolic turned onto his right and at 25 metres out, mirrored Kutlesovski's earlier strike, firing the ball past the outstretched Anastasiadis once again.

The Knights' Michael Reda tried to add his name to the score card in the 38th minute, however, his untouchable run towards goal eventuated in a defensive clearance.

Carlton's Archie Thompson saw little action in the first half and his final misguided effort on goal capped off an eventful first period.

Kutlesovski was presented with two early opportunities in the second half, with both shots narrowly missing the target. His best chance of the half arrived in the 56th minute when Joe Rajher whipped in a curling cross leaving Carlton's custodian bound to his line. Kutlesovski met the cross firmly, however, he was unable to control his header which sailed over the crossbar.

With Carlton on the back foot, Knight's Rajher continued his forays into the attacking zones and let fly with a long range shot that left the scrambling Anastasiadis grateful to see the ball veer wide from a deflection.

Susa and Kutlesovski continued to reek havoc up front, this time combining well in the 74th minute. Kutlesovski's final left foot shot, curled around the keeper, rattled the upright and rebounded back into play.

Striving for the elusive equaliser, it was only a matter of time before a Knights' attacker would be left with a "one on one" situation with a Carlton defender.

To Carlton's dismay, captain Andrew Marth brought down an evasive Susa inside the box with



Eddie Krncevic ... "All credit to the Knights who deserved to win."

referee Jeremy Blaney pointing straight at the stop. Susa lined up to take the 91st minute penalty, and his spot kick sent the keeper the wrong way but the shot hit the upright resulting in no further addition to the score line.

Knight's coach Josip Biskic was pleased to finish off the season with a win and climb to 12th spot on the table. "It was very important for us to win this game because it was our last game and when I took over I told the guys it was our goal to finish above Gippsland and Adelaide Sharks."

Biskic has gained the respect of his players since taking over from Horvat, and as yet there are no firm decisions regarding the coaching tenure for the Knights for next season. "It's a difficult question to answer," says Biskic, "but you'll probably know in three or four weeks time. I haven't made any decisions yet and I've enjoyed being with the guys and have appreciated what they have done."

### MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 4,063

Referee: Jeremy Blaney

**Melbourne Knights:** John, Nasteovski, Kovacevic, Jolic, Rajher, Deak (Plunkett 84), Pondeljak, Reda (Milicevic 46), Banini (Magdic 89), Kutlesovski, Susa.

**Carlton SC:** Anastasiadis, Anthopoulos (Tolios 83), Stergiopoulos, Colosimo, Marth, Moreira (Stojevski 73), Lapsansky, Thompson (Tricarico 46), Van Steeden, Martin, Della Rocca

### Yellows:

Melbourne: Knights Kovacevic 57, Susa 75  
Carlton SC: Lapsansky 75

### Players Votes of the Year:

3: Susa (MK)  
2: Kutlesovski (MK)  
1: Lapsansky (C)

With the possibility of Biskic continuing on as coach for next season, the addition of a couple of quality players may be what is required for the Knights' to return to former glories. "Two good players with this team and a good pre-season should ensure a good future for the club."

The Melbourne Knights will play the McKay benefit game next week against South Melbourne to finish off the season, while Biskic will see out his contract at Fawkner during the winter season of the Victorian Premier League as a player.

A dejected Eddie Krncevic said, "We didn't play that well in the midfield and we left a few gaps, but all credit to the Knights who deserved the win. We're all disappointed and the players are down."

"Positives to come out of the season are some of the young kids that are coming through. Steve Martin and Ace Stojevski are probably about two years away from full potential. We need more players of those characters and build from there."





# ERICSSON CUP

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24-25 APRIL  
1999

## SYDNEY UNITED DESERVED MINOR PREMIERS

**SYDNEY UNITED** 3  
**Sterjovski 20, 29 Burns 33**  
**ADELAIDE SHARKS** 1  
**Demourzidis 56**  
**At Edensor Park, Sydney**

By Eva Loukas

**M**iracles do happen. And some of the greatest miracles are also the best stories. This is a story of guts, passion, honesty and teamwork. So it was appropriate that Sydney United's dream run this season was capped off with a comfortable 3-1 victory over the Adelaide Sharks, at Edensor Park, on the Anzac Day weekend.

The win saw the Pumas snatch the Minor Premiership away from South Melbourne who had been leading the competition for much of the season.

Sydney United pressed into action from the off, and dictated play throughout the first half, as they have done all year at fortress Edensor, allowing the

Sharks very few goal scoring chances in the opening 45 minutes.

The Pumas went on a 13 minute goal scoring rampage which crushed any hopes the Sharks had of upsetting the high-flying Pumas.

A double by in form striker Mile Sterjovski was topped off with a Jacob Burns strike to send the Sharks back to Adelaide contemplating their future.

United's opener came in the 20th minute from a set piece. Midfielder Walter Ardone was the provider. His free-kick, from 30 metres out, was met first by the towering Velimir Kupresak who then played it to David Barrett. Sterjovski was the last in this attack for the Pumas and his shot was deflected into the back of the net by Sharks defender Joel Porter.

The Sydney United faithful didn't have to wait long to celebrate a second goal and it came courtesy of a defensive blunder by Adelaide.

In the 29th minute, Alex Kuzmanovic failed to clear the ball out the Adelaide penalty area and the ensuing action saw Sharks' keeper Nathan Wildy and United's Sterjovski challenge each other in the box. The bouncing ball hit Adelaide's Branko Milosevic and then fell to a grateful Sterjovski who fired in his



David Mitchell... a miracle worker.

second of the match for the Pumas.

Jacob Burns made it 3-0 for the home side just four minutes later, sending the United fans into a frenzy of celebration.

Adelaide scored was turned out to be a consolation goal six minutes into the second half through Elias de Mourtzidis.

### MATCH STATS...

Referee: E. Brazzale

Crowd: 8,142

**Sydney United:** Wildy, Alagich, Castro, Kuzmanovic, Kokkinopoulis, Ardone, Milosevic, Porter, Tsonis, Westervelt, Demourzidis

**Adelaide Sharks:** Gibson, Barrett, Kupresak, Plesa, Vrkic, Bennett, Berry, Ardone, Burns, Sterjovski, Day

**Yellow Cards:**  
Sharks: Ardone

**Votes for Player of the Year:**  
3: Sterjovski (S.U.)  
2: Ardone (S.U.)  
1: Kupresak (S.U.)

Sydney United will now face South Melbourne in their semi-final. The Blues will be fired up for that clash after United snatched the the Minor Premiership from under their noses.

## WOLVES END ON A HIGH AS GLORY EYES FINALS

**WOLLONGONG WOLVES** 3  
**Younis 20, Dimoski 47, Chipperfield 61**  
**PERTH GLORY** 3  
**Markovski 13, 19, Deans 81**  
**At Brandon Park, Wollongong.**

By Soccer Weekly

**U**nsung defender Craig Deans snatched a late equaliser as Perth Glory and Wollongong Wolves played out one of the best games of the year, drawing 3-3 at Brandon Park on Sunday in front of 3,213.

The Glory will head into next weekend's top-six play-offs in third spot, going to Hindmarsh stadium to play Adelaide City, while Wolves

finished a reasonable, but disappointing seventh, given last year's finals appearance.

Perth went in 2-1 at half-time through John Markovski's two goals, but succumbed to a magnificent comeback to trail 3-2 before Dean's equaliser nine minutes from full-time.

Fijian sub Esala Masi spoiled proceedings by getting a red card just before the end.

Perth coach Bernd Stange used the match to rest several key players with the Glory already in the six.

A mere 70kms away in Sydney, the rampaging Pumas ensured the Glory would not be in the top two by scoring early to finish off the Sharks at Edensor Park, thus winning the minor premiership.

In an open match, Perth made the best possible start with Markovski scoring after just 13 minutes.

Big John headed in from close range after a couple of blocked shots.

Eight minutes later and fitness freak Ray Younis scored with a lovely volley from the just inside the box.

Troy Halpin then assisted Markovski to his and his team's second, when he clipped in a corner and the Big Man made no mistake with his head.

Wollongong equalised three minutes after half-time through midfielder Sasho Dimoski and went in front 3-2 with a piece of brilliance from Scott Chipperfield.

Tall defender Craig Deans ensured the Glory went back to Perth with a point by scoring shortly after to send the home supporters on their way with another high scoring affair.

### MATCH STATS...

Referee: M. Shield

Crowd: 3,213

**Wolves:** Bellame, Souris, Dimech, Stanton, Horsley, Brooks, Surjan, Dimoski, Chipperfield, Younis, Huxley

**Glory:** Milosevic, Carbone, Zarbone, Circati, Wilkinson, Hamwell, Naven, Halpin, Markovski, Kalogeracos, Boutsianis

**Yellow Cards:**  
Glory: Kalogeracos, Hamwell

**Red Cards:**  
Wolves: Masi

**Votes for Player of the Year:**  
3: Markovski (P.G.)  
2: Chipperfield (W.C.)  
1: Younis (W.C.)

## TOBIN SAVES CITY, BUT WHERE TO NOW FOR BLUES?

**ADELAIDE CITY** 1  
**Alex Tobin 88**  
**SYDNEY OLYMPIC** 0  
**At Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide**

By Margaret Bowden and Donald Campbell

**W**hat a day for Adelaide. Balmey weather; a good crowd, swelled well after the early kick off with jubilant fans coming in after watching the Crows thump the Swans; and a result which gives South Australia a chance to win another national sporting title.

But the win did not come easily. It was only a last gasp header from captain Alex Tobin that saved Adelaide City from the ignominious prospect of not making the final six for the first time in 10 years.

Although a draw would have met Olympic's needs, Branko Culina and his team had come for a win. City had no choice - it was win or exit. Zoran Matic had changed the line up, with Dino Menillo, Nick Sabljak and Travis Dodd starting, and out of form Carl Veart relegated to the bench.

Menillo and Sabljak immediately set up a dangerous attacking partnership. Brett Emerton and ex-City player Scott Thomas did the same for Olympic, aided by Peter Tsekensis, Chris Kalantzis and Peter Zorbas.

Emerton sounded the warning bells in the opening minutes, skipping around Tobin into the box but shooting wide. Then Thomas was through, but Jason Petkovic saved his close range shot. Menillo replied for City, but his shot was cleared for a corner. Sabljak then took a long shot, but it sailed just wide. Tobin then sent a 40 metre free kick deep into Olympic's defensive area. Damian Mori ran onto it and headed, but George Bouhoutsos saved easily.

Ten minutes into the game, the crowd hushed in disbelief. Carlo Talladira passed the ball back to Petkovic, who picked it up. Free kick Olympic in the penalty area. Pablo Cardozo knocked the ball to Kalantzis for the shot - into the wall! The next chance fell to City, but birthday boy Bradley Hassell volleyed over the bar.

Tobin and Angelo Costanzo switched from left to right and right to left, keeping tabs on Emerton and Cardozo, while Scott Baillie, Mehmed Durakovic and Ante Juric took turns to nullify Mori. At times, Olympic had ten players in defence. Highlight of the first half was Tobin and Ivanovic's entertaining, ice-cool wall passing at the back, toying with Emerton.

Olympic again launched straight into attack in the second half, but after Emerton shot over the bar and Cardozo stretched Petkovic with a low curler from a free kick, it was all City. No doubt inspired by the parade of former Adelaide City greats before this do or die battle, 88.5 Coast FM Player of the Match Tobin grabbed the bull by the horns and took control

of the entire left side of the pitch, launching a full scale attack on the stolid Olympic defence. The home crowd, so often sitting in stony silence for the full 90 minutes earlier in the season, made their presence felt. The roar started when Ivanovic almost broke through the Olympic defence 20 minutes into the half. It reached a crescendo 17 minutes later when Tobin scored. Pandemonium broke loose.

Menillo, substituted shortly before the goal, ran onto the pitch to congratulate Tobin and was cautioned for his trouble. Olympic protested vehemently that their keeper Bouhoutsos had been impeded. Referee Eddie Lennie had his hands full trying to calm them down. They followed him to the sideline, where he spoke with assistant referee Mike Parry. As the officials conferred, the City players' celebrations abated. The fans, however, continued to roar. The outcome - a GOAL for City and a booking for Olympic defender Scott Baillie.

Tobin's strike lifted the tempo of the game for the final 10 minutes, with Sabljak firing in a high shot which looked a certain goal.

Bouhoutsos managed to tip it over the bar at the last second. Olympic went into overdrive, desperate to level the score and take their place in the finals. Baillie raced down the right into the box but Petkovic, who played a second sweeper role throughout the second half as Ivanovich and Tobin pushed forward, was off his line in a flash, saving just inside the area. Emerton smashed the ball at goal

### MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 5,362 official

Referee: Eddie Lennie

**Adelaide City:** Petkovic, Ivanovic, Tobin, Talladira, Mori (Yates 92), Menillo (Veart 74), Costanzo, Hassell, Terminello, Dodd (Kim 33), Sabljak

**Sydney Olympic:** Bouhoutsos, Thomas, Tsekensis, Cardozo, Emerton, Kalantzis (Carle 65), Augerinos, Junc, Baillie, Durakovic, Zorbas (Miot 77)

**Yellow:**  
**Adelaide City:** Mori  
**Sydney Olympic:** Durakovic, Cardozo, Baillie, Tsekensis

**Votes for Player of the Year:**  
3: Alex Tobin (Adelaide City)  
2: Scott Baillie (Sydney Olympic)  
1: Milan Ivanovic (Adelaide City)

from close range in the 91st minute, but Petkovic blocked to keep City's 1-0 advantage. A mammoth sigh of relief rose from the home fans two minutes later as the referee whistled time up. The best defence in Australia had contained Olympic's dangermen Cardozo and Emerton, ensuring a sell-out crowd for City's home leg finals clash with Perth Glory.



# National Youth League

Argon Video Productions

## SOUTHERN DIVISION

### Round 28 Wednesday 21 April

Bulleen Inter .....1 VIS .....3

### Saturday 24 April

Carlton .....6 Bulleen Inter .....8

Albury Wodonga .....0 VIS .....5

### Saturday 25 April

Fixtures: Round 25: 27/4 (tonight) South v VIS, Round 21 29/4 Bulleen v VIS

### League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	24	17	4	3	72	26	55
South Melbourne	22	12	3	7	42	24	39
VIS	21	11	5	5	46	31	38
Gippsland Falcons	23	10	3	10	43	34	33
Melbourne Knights	24	9	3	12	44	53	30
Bulleen Inter Kings	22	8	3	11	29	44	27
Albury Wodonga	22	1	1	20	20	84	4

### Play-offs

(Details to be announced)

### ROUND 25

#### Tuesday 27 April

South Melbourne v VIS, (Bob Jane Stadium, 6pm)

### ROUND 21

#### Thursday 29 April

Bulleen Inter v VIS, (Veneto Park, 7pm)

### LEADING SOUTHERN SCORERS

Andrew Mascholan	South Melb	47
Deniz Ekiçi	Carlton	35
Tony Ouliaris	Carlton	11
Scott McDonald	VIS	8
Angelo Moutsopoulos	VIS	8

Carlton overwhelmed Bulleen 6-0 at Anderson Reserve on Saturday in the Southern Div. Bulleen's resistance fell apart after Nathan Thomas was sent off. Deniz Ekiçi scored a hat-trick, two came from Ouliaris and Pir one. Carlton was already confirmed as Minor Premier before this game.

The VIS beat Bulleen three-one last Wednesday in another of its series of catch-up games. Angelo Moutsopoulos, Denis Vucinic and David Terek scored for the VIS, while Michael Gulino replied for Bulleen. Then on Saturday the VIS went to Myrtleford and beat Albury Wodonga 5-0.

Ray Sekulovski scored twice, Marc Tsiolas, Denis Vucinic and David Terek scored the others. The match between the VIS and South Melbourne on Tuesday (tonight) will decide who plays Carlton next week for the first place in the Grand Final. The loser of that match will play Gippsland.

Gippsland Falcons overwhelmed the Melbourne Knights at Knights Stadium 5-0. Alex Halikias was the star with four goals and Billy Mitroulas scored the other. This result puts the Falcons into the play-offs as Bulleen is six points behind with two games in hand, but with a much inferior goal difference.

The Northern Division play-off places were not decided until the very last game in Round 30 between Marconi Fairfield and Northern Spirit on Sunday night. In the end the Spirit prevailed, winning by three goals to one after going behind to a Mark Haggard penalty after 53 minutes.

Knowing that they were certain of a spot in the play-offs the Spirit could afford to play a counter-attacking game and this paid off when Ryan

Griffiths scored twice on the break in 67 and 77 minutes.

Anthony Kanaan got the third goal in the 80th minute. So Marconi missed out and the Breakers hung on to the last play-off spot.

Marconi Fairfield Colts held second top team Sydney Olympic to a scoreless draw on Saturday at home. Olympic and the AIS, which won the league by four points, will play off for a spot in the Northern Division Grand Final next week.

The loser will play the winner of the other semi-final which will be either Northern Spirit or Newcastle.

Newcastle Breakers had a good two-nil win over Wollongong Wolves last Wednesday with goals by John Buonavoglia in 26 minutes and Brendan Wiecezorek in 79.

Then it went to Brisbane and scored a two-one win over the QAS. This result lifted Newcastle to fourth spot on goal difference, but still at that stage dependent on the outcome of the final match.

ACTAS downed Northern Spirit Colts by two goals to nil scored by Luke Morgan in 40 minutes and Grant Chick in 53.

Wollongong Wolves had a six-two win over Sydney United Colts, while Sydney United downed the Wolves Colts 5-0. For the Wolves Youth the scorers were George Mahanidis with two and singles to Maccabei, Tuturevski and Bishop, while Pogliacomini scored a penalty kick!

The United Colts goals came from Gustavo Orcayo and Monte Pfengle David Pavelic, Daniel Kukucka, Josip Moric, and Alan Lo Proto.

## NORTHERN DIVISION

### Round 27

#### Tuesday 20 April

Newcastle Breakers .....2 Wollongong Wolves .....0

### Round 30

#### Saturday 24 April

Marconi Fairfield Colts .....0 Sydney Olympic .....0

NSWIS .....1 AIS .....4

Already played

#### Saturday 25 April

Sydney United .....5 Wollongong Wolves Colts .....0

Wollongong Wolves .....6 Sydney United Colts .....2

Marconi Fairfield .....1 Northern Spirit .....3

QAS .....1 Newcastle Breakers .....2

ACTAS .....2 Northern Spirit Colts .....0

Bye v Sydney Olympic Academy

### League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	28	20	7	1	103	19	67
Sydney Olympic	28	20	4	4	89	30	64
Northern Spirit	28	20	2	6	68	24	62
Newcastle Breakers	28	18	5	5	62	29	59
Marconi Fairfield	28	17	5	6	78	26	56
NSWIS	28	17	3	8	69	33	54
Wollongong Wolves	28	17	2	9	85	35	53
QAS	28	15	2	11	72	44	47
Sydney United	28	12	4	12	59	48	40
Marconi Fairfield Colts	28	8	5	15	35	48	29
ACTAS	28	7	3	18	38	73	24
Northern Spirit Colts	28	4	3	21	23	102	15
Sydney Olympic Academy	28	3	5	20	26	99	14
Sydney United Colts	28	4	1	23	29	97	13
Wollongong Wolves Colts	28	1	3	24	15	142	6

## Northern Division Play-offs (Details to be announced)

### LEADING NORTHERN SCORERS

Mark Haggard	Marconi	24
Kevo Gulesserian	AIS	21
Simon Catanzaro	NSWIS	20
Daniel Kukucka	Sydney United	16

Note: Apart from goals in matches played this week, the goalscorers as given here are from Soccer Australia official data.

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# NSW SUPER LEAGUE

## SUPER LEAGUE: STORY SO FAR ...

**A**fter 12 Rounds of the New South Wales Super League the three favourites were all level on points at the top of the table.

Blacktown City Demons, Bonnyrigg White Eagles and Macarthur Rams sat on 25 points, but behind them, just two points adrift, where last seasons promoted club, the Fairfield Bulls.

The Joe Watson-led Bulls have surprised everyone so far, and have two of the competition's leading scorers in Matthew Borg and Mark Hoenselaars.

The top three had all won 8 out of their 11 games played.

Macarthur haven't had a striker to fire in the goals but have shared them out, while defensively they look as strong as anyone. Goalkeeper John Crawley is among the best in Super League and how Dion Valle isn't playing in the NSL is a mystery.

Blacktown struggled to score early on, which with a strike force containing Jon Angelucci, Jason Bennett and Stuart Cleary was surprising. They have started knocking them in now though and will once again be up there at the end of the season. That is made even more meritable after losing Coach Alex Robertson just a few days before the season started, Brian "Bomber" Brown coming in and doing a fine job.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles suffered a 5-2 home defeat by Bankstown City Lions in the first round of the season, and Coach John Turner said that was the worse his team could play. He has been proved right, and some recent results see them as the form team in the competition. Strikers Colin Luff and Robert Gomez are scoring goals for fun, and they have a good chance of repeating last years Minor Premiership win.

At the bottom of the table are a group of four who are in danger of losing track with the mid-table clubs.

The Central Coast started brightly, especially after playing their first five games away from home, and even had an away victory over Blacktown.

Since moving back up to Plum Park though they have had seven defeats on the trot, and apart from Nathan Byrn are struggling to score goals.

It was a torrid start for Eastern Suburbs and new Coach John Calleja, but in contrast to the Coasties they have had a bad start but then picked up a couple of wins. A surprise

win over Canterbury Marrickville gave the Wanderers their first win of the season, and a 2-0 win over the Coasties saw them move up to 7 points.

Sutherland are just one point ahead with eight points, and have the worse defensive record in the league, although the form of Dennis Olla, Levi Stephen and 16 year old Kris Karanisis have been encouraging.

Ryde City makes up the group of four, and although they have conceded the same number of goals as Bonnyrigg, it is scoring goals that trouble the Gunners. Former Soccerroo Scott Ollerenshaw knocked in a couple of doubles early on but other than that Ryde lack firepower up-front.

As well as a group in the top four and bottom four, the table also seems to be producing a middle four. These teams are four points ahead of the bottom four but five points adrift of the top four, and are Canterbury Marrickville, Leichhardt Tigers, Parramatta Eagles and Bankstown City Lions.

Bankstown suffered losing their new Coach Sakib Lovic due to personal reasons, and is currently playing with a caretaker player coach in veteran Mile Todorovski. The Lions though have a potent attack and are capable of beating any team on their day. The new coach though has to try and make that day come more often.

Parramatta has a dreadful away record, although at home they are performing well. After struggling to score early on they have put some big scores past some lowly opposition, but are still struggling to score against the teams at the top.

Leichhardt Tigers have a very balanced record this season - played five and lost five, with 20 goals scored and 21 against. It will take a big effort for Arno Bertogna's boys to climb into that top four, but between now and the end of the season they will worry some teams along the way.

Canterbury Marrickville are five points behind Fairfield, and like any team in this league needs to put that winning, or at the very least unbeaten, run together. Striker Jim Nikas hasn't found his scoring boots yet, but midfielder Zoran Ilic has come in and played superbly. Goalkeeper Steve Tolios is another who has impressed.

The teams at the top will take some catching, although in Round 13 action Bonnyrigg play Fairfield and Blacktown play Macarthur. We may have a slightly clearer picture by then!

## NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE



ROUND

14

Friday 30 April

Blacktown City Demons v Fairfield Bulls  
Gable Stadium, 7.15pm (re-arranged match)

Saturday 1 May

Central Coast v Canterbury Marrickville  
Plum Park 6pm

Macarthur Rams v Leichhardt Tigers  
Lynwood Park, 7pm

Sunday 2 May

Parramatta Eagles v Bonnyrigg White Eagles  
Meila Stadium, 3pm

Fairfield Bulls v Bankstown City Lions  
Nineveh Field, 3pm

Eastern Suburbs v Ryde City  
Wentworth Park, 3pm

Sutherland Sharks v Blacktown City Demons  
Seymour Shaw Field, 3:00pm

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### Super Youth League

#### DIVISION 1

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
AC United	28	19	6	3	82	30	52	63
Illawarra Lions	28	17	5	6	77	32	45	56
Ryde City	32	17	5	10	57	32	25	56
Blacktown Asso.	32	15	8	9	59	34	25	53
St George	28	16	2	10	62	37	25	50
Pennit Panthers	28	15	4	9	63	35	28	49
Bankstown Asso.	24	14	3	7	48	26	22	45
Hills United	28	12	5	11	51	38	13	41
Bon. W. Eagles	20	11	4	5	43	25	18	37
Stanmore Hawks	28	12	1	15	48	53	-5	37
Rockdale C. Suns	30	9	5	16	29	57	-28	32
Can. Asso.	28	5	3	20	29	59	-30	18
Fairfield Bulls	30	4	4	22	22	102	-80	16
Canter. M'ville	32	4	1	27	24	137	-110	13

#### DIVISION 2

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Hajduk Wanderers	20	14	3	3	56	24	32	45
Nepean Association	20	13	2	5	50	21	29	41
Mt Pritchard	20	10	5	5	48	32	16	35
Ku-Ringa-Gai Asso.	20	10	3	7	40	24	16	33
Mt Druitt Town	20	9	5	6	46	30	16	32
Macquarie Sports	20	10	2	8	41	35	6	32
Camden Tigers	20	8	5	7	32	24	8	29
Parramatta City	20	8	3	9	45	47	-2	27
CSI Schofields	20	6	5	9	38	45	-7	23
Hawkesbury City	20	4	5	11	21	43	-22	17
Granville Association	20	5	2	13	28	57	-29	17
Moorebank Sports	20	2	2	16	19	82	-63	8

#### DIVISION 1

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Lech. Tigers	2-2	0-2	0-3	2-0				
Glad. Hornsby	2-1	7-0	3-0	2-1				
Parra Eagles	2-1	2-0	0-1	0-1				
Syd United	2-3	2-1	1-3	0-2				
Mac. Rams	0-1	0-0	2-3	1-1				
Eastern Subs	0-4	2-4	0-4	0-4				
Marconi F'field	3-0	1-1	3-0	1-2				
W. Wolves	3-1	3-2	1-1	2-0				

#### ROUND 9

#### UNDER 13

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Blacktown C Demons	8	7	1	0	35	3	32	22

Southern Districts	8	6	1	1	17	11	6	19
Wollongong Wolves	9	5	3	1	19	7	12	18
Newcastle Breakers	7	6	0	1	18	7	11	18
Parramatta Eagles	8	5	2	1	23	7	16	17
Sydney Olympic	9	5	1	2	21	9	12	16
Marconi Fairfield	9	4	1	4	18	15	3	13
Glades. H. y Assoc	8	3	3	2	10	13	-3	12
Sutherland Sharks	9	2	3	4	11	18	-7	9
Macarthur Rams	9	1	5	3	6	12	-6	8
Southern Branch	9	2	1	6	11	25	-14	7
Sydney United	9	1	1	7	7	20	-13	4
Manly War.	8	1	1	6	9	23	-14	4
Central Coast	8	1	0	7	5	30	-25	3
Eastern Suburbs	8	0	2	6	5	29	-24	2

#### UNDER 14

Wollongong Wolves	9	8	0	1	24	11	13	24
Southern Districts	8	6	2	0	19	5	14	20
Sydney United	9	6	2	1	20	11	9	20
Sydney Olympic	9	6	0	3	34	8	26	18
Glades. H. Assoc	8	5	1	2	27	9	18	16
Marconi Fairfield	9	5	1	3	25	17	8	16
Sutherland Sharks	9	5	1	3	13	10	3	16
Newcastle Breakers	7	4	0	3	11	12	-1	12
B'town C Demons	8	3	1	4	12	15	-3	10
Parramatta Eagles	8	3	1	4	13	19	-6	10
Leichhardt Tigers	8	3	0	5	11	11	0	9
Macarthur Rams	9	2	2	5	9	13	-4	8
Southern Branch	9	2	1	6	9	23	-14	7
Eastern Suburbs	8	1	1	6	10	30	-20	4
Central Coast	8	1	0	7	6	33	-27	3
Manly War Dolphins	8	0	1	7	3	19	-16	1

#### UNDER 15

Marconi Fairfield	9	8	0	1	26	5	21	24
Glade H. Assoc	8	7	1	0	32	4	28	22
B'town City Demons	8	7	0	1	24	4	20	21
Southern Districts	8	6	0	2	20	8	12	18
Wollongong Wolves	9	4	1	4	14	9	5	16
Sydney Olympic	9	5	0	4	25	16	9	15
Sutherland Sharks	9	4	2	3	15	10	5	14
Sydney United	9	3	3	3	12	10	2	12
Leichhardt Tigers	8	3	1	4	15	17	-2	10
Newcastle Breakers	7	3	0	4	15	12	3	9
Macarthur Rams	9	2	2	5	12	19	-7	8
Central Coast	8	2	1	5	7	24	-17	7
Manly War Dolphins	8	2	0	6	7	24	-17	6
Eastern Suburbs	8	2	0	6	8	30	-22	6
Parramatta Eagles	8	1	2	5	7	15	-8	5
Southern Branch	9	0	0	9	5	37	-32	0

## KARA'S FIVE GOAL BLITZ

**R**ound 13 may have got off to a wet start with the Central Coast's game against the Sutherland Sharks rained off, but there was still plenty to cheer about in the other games.

Bonnyrigg took on the Fairfield Bulls at the Serbian Centre with the Bulls just two points behind the White Eagles at the start of play, but Bonnyrigg are in no mood to surrender their Minor Premiership title from last year and smashed the Bulls for 6.

Striker Colin Luff was once again the main man for the White Eagles, and his hatrick makes it 13 for the season. Javier Mancino also knocked in a brace of goals with midfielder Paul Dee also netting past the hapless Bulls.

The other two teams at the top also played, with Blacktown hosting Macarthur Rams, in a game, which saw a potent attack take on a mean defence. It was the attack that won out though, as Blacktown scored three without reply, goals from Jon Angelucci, his third in three games, and two from Jason Bennett sealing the win.

A game that on paper was never going to stand out. Leichhardt Tigers against Eastern Suburbs, did thanks to the return to Super League of ex-Parramatta Eagles striker Steve Karavatakis. With his NSL commitments with Wollongong Wolves finishing, Karavatakis (top) helped himself to five goals on his debut, including four goals in seven minutes, as

the Tigers ran out 6-1 winners.

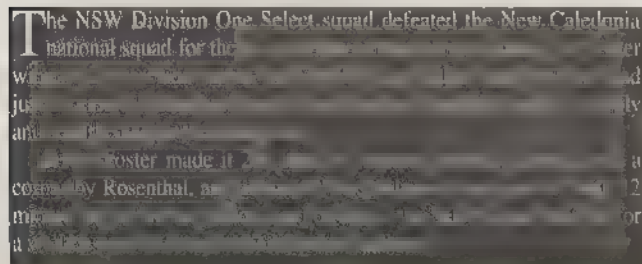
There was also a high-scoring affair at Wentworth Park, where Ryde City entertained Parramatta Eagles. The Eagles were without an away win this season, but ended that run with a 4-3 victory, Grant Bard taking his tally for the season to 9 goals in scoring a brace.

The day's other game saw Canterbury Marrickville defeat Bankstown City 1-0, with a goal just 14 minutes from time by Steve Christoforidis.

**I**n Div One, Stanmore Hawks' Briscoe got there before the defence in the 33rd of the Arlington Oval derby to steer in a cross after the Hawks had hit the post through Theo Katsaros earlier on and had looked well on top. When Sasha Spiroski was brought down on the edge of the Stanmore box in the 41st a free kick by John Sherry was only parried by Paul Kyprianou and Zlatko Momorovski put away the loose ball in the 41st for a surprise equaliser.

Right before the break veteran Burim Zajimi was allowed to stroll through the heart of the Dulwich defence and his shot took a wicked deflection off Luis Perera as it sent keeper Peter Trajceviski the wrong way for the regained lead.

Briscoe completed the scoring in the 85th when he was first to react inside the area after the ball ran loose following a sustained period of pressure by the Hawks.





# QUEENSLAND

## TASSIE TIGER ON THE GOLD COAST



At the ripe old age of 18, (19 next month), Duncan Easton is one of the young products of the Queensland Academy of Sport. Born in Launceston, Tasmania, his first attempt at football was with the Southport U6 side and even at that young age, he displayed a glimpse of talent above the average.

When aged nine and for three consecutive years, he made the South East Queensland representative side and went on to play for Queensland in the U15's with coach Peter Tokesi.

"I remember Duncan very well, he was one of the first players chosen for the team," Tokesi said.

"Even back then he was a very good player, so I wasn't surprised when he was selected into the Queensland Academy of Sport the following year."

And it has been with the QAS that Easton has spent the last three years. Firstly with coach Greg Brown who is now the Australian Women's coach and who also remembers Easton.

"Yes, he is a good player. I recall at the time he was a solid tackler and you always knew he would do the job for you," Brown said.

Then, Gary Phillips was appointed head coach of the QAS and it was his decision that Easton should move on to senior football.

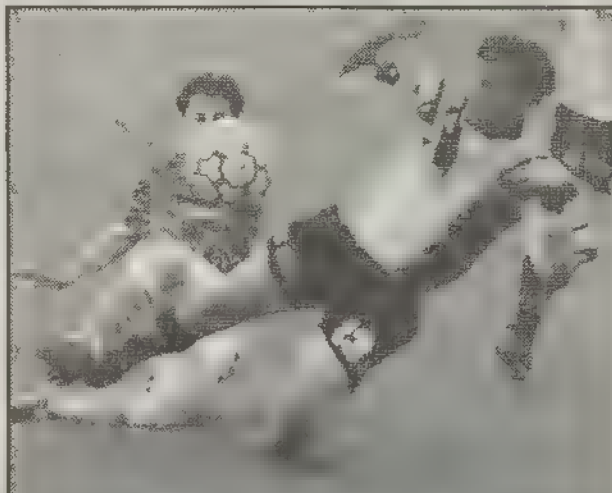
"Duncan had been with the QAS for three years and was in his comfort zone," Phillips said.

"I would have liked to have kept him for the teams sake but that would not have done Duncan any good.

"He needed to play senior football and needed to become street wise. That is something he wouldn't get playing at national youth level."

"I believe he needed to extend himself and apply the skills he has learnt, so he could take his game to the next level.

"It says a lot for his ability if he can go from the QAS, straight to a starting line-up in the state's premier senior league," Phillips concluded.



Duncan Easton (no. 13) in action with Chris Slater. The Wynnum player is certainly one to watch.

Still living on the Gold Coast, Easton now has to travel to his new club Wynnum District Wolves, who train in the Brisbane suburb of Tingalpa, a solid one hour drive from his home.

With training three nights per week and then match day, the only respite he gets is when the Wolves play away at the Gold Coast. Or from Easton's point of view, at home, then it is only a ten minute walk to the Southport Soccer Club.

Ironically, his coach is again Peter Tokesi, Easton's former coach when he played in the Queensland U15's.

"He is a handy defender to have, very solid and I can play him as a sweeper or a stopper," Tokesi said.

"I've even played him in the midfield when I needed someone there and he certainly acquitted himself very well."

Easton's aspirations are like most young players, to play at the highest level, be it here in Australia or overseas. His desire to play professional football is not unusual and whoever gives him the first opportunity will be well rewarded.

Ipswich Knights took a sudden leap into the top four of the Queensland Premier league with another upset 2-1 win against Brisbane City at Spencer Park on Sunday.

The Knights have become the leagues giant killers in recent weeks with Brisbane City their third top four scalp in as many matches following victories the previous two rounds over Brisbane Lions and Taringa Rovers.

The match offered little on field but off field it was intriguing to witness the tactics of rival coaches Frank Pimblett (Ipswich) and Bobby Hamilton (Brisbane City).

Both were former teammates in the halcyon national league days with Brisbane City in the late 70's and 80's.

Brisbane City were marginally the better of the two sides in the first half with clearly the better chances but with nothing on the scoreboard at half time.

City missed taking a shock lead two minutes from kick-off when a Damien Waugh chip into the box found striker Royce Brownlie whose first time strike was hit just wide of the upright.

The same combination came to the fore midway through the first half when Brownlie was put through a gap by Waugh only to see the striker cut

his angle down after he rounded Ipswich keeper Sam Ferguson before slotting his shot wide.

Both sides had several attempts in the first half to break the deadlock, particularly Brisbane City who looked in control of midfield.

However, the opening goal didn't eventuate until six minutes after the break when Ipswich Knights stung the home side with a simple goal from striker John Clark.

Clark raced onto a pass from rangy midfielder Peter McKendrick before drawing keeper Ben Appledorn then slotting into the net.

Ipswich's goal was only shortlived before Brisbane City grabbed the equaliser less than a minute later.

Former national league striker turned defender Mark Battistin, who played in the City defence, broke down the right flank before cutting back for Waugh to rifle into the roof of the net from the penalty spot.

Some spirited Knights defence, typified by Ken Caldwell who made several last ditch clearances, kept the visitors in the match before former State striker Peter Vogler put them ahead ten minutes from time.

Vogler proved the Knights hero ranging up at the far post to head home a corner from Wayne Adams.

At Jack Spears Park, a ten-man Wynnum caused the other major upset by downing Taringa Rovers 2-1.

Taringa, who led the competition only two weeks ago, have now slipped to equal fourth on 17 points with Brisbane City who drew 1-1 all midweek in a catch-up match against Mt Gravatt.

Taringa coach John Ogden blamed two costly defensive mistakes for his side's defeat.

Ironically Wynnum scored both goals within five minutes of losing midfielder Anthony Roche who was sent off for a two-footed tackle on Taringa's Andrew Packer.

Taringa's first mistake came from skipper Demetri Theochari who bounced off a tackle from Wynnum's Scott Rocker allowing him to slot home, then Craig Slaughter was slow to the ball near the corner post enabling Rocker to cross for Simon Graham to grab a 2-goal lead at half time.

Taringa had a chance to reduce the lead just before the interval but striker Scott Robinson missed a penalty.

"We didn't perform and had too many players who had off games," Ogden said. "You can carry one or maybe two players in a game but any more and you can't win."

Brisbane Lions stayed at the top of the table with a convincing 4-1 win over Mt Gravatt after leading the homeseide 2-1 at half time.

Veteran Frank Mengotti landed a double for Lions with Steve Jackson and Wade Cannon both scoring while Mt Gravatt's solitary goal came from Craig Collins.

Toowoomba stayed anchored at the bottom of the table but earned a valuable point in a nil-all draw with the Gold Coast while Rochdale Rovers out-gunned Bundaberg 3-2 at home.

Veteran striker Keiran Cooper, Matt Olley and Andy Monement completed the goal scoring for Rochdale while Bundaberg scored through Nick Maas and an own goal.

BRISBANE CITY	-	Spencer Park, Newmarket
BRISBANE LIONS	-	Lions Stadium, Richlands
BUNDABERG WAVES	-	Thabeban Sports Complex, Bundaberg
GOLD COAST CITY	-	Southport SC, Ashmore
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	-	Eric Evans Reserve, Bundamba
MT GRAVATT	-	Dittmer Park, Mt Gravatt
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	-	Underwood Park, Rochdale
TARINGA ROVERS	-	Jack Spears Park, Indooroopilly
TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS	-	Gold Park, Toowoomba
WYNNUM	-	Carmichael Park, Tingalpa

ROUND 12				
01-05	Bundaberg	v	Wynnum	7.00pm
02-05	Brisbane City	v	Taringa Rovers	2.45pm
02-05	Gold Coast	v	Mt Gravatt	2.45pm
02-05	Brisbane Lions	v	Rochdale	4.00pm
03-05	Ipswich Knights	v	Toowoomba Utd	2.45pm

## QUEENSLAND RESULTS AND TABLES

### XXXX LEAGUE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Brisbane Lions	11	7	2	2	30	17	13	23
Rochdale Rov	11	7	0	4	28	17	11	21
IPSW Knights	10	6	0	4	16	13	3	18
Taringa Rovers	11	5	2	4	18	11	7	17
Brisbane City	11	5	2	4	17	15	2	17
B'Berg Waves	11	4	2	5	17	18	-1	14
Wynnum	11	4	1	6	17	23	-6	13
Mt Gravatt	11	3	3	5	20	25	-5	12
Gold Coast	10	2	6	2	13	18	-5	12
Toowoomba UTD	11	1	2	8	8	27	-19	5

### ROUND 11 SCORES

Brisbane City	.....1	IPSW Knights	.....2
Toowoomba Utd	.....0	Gold Coast	.....0
Mt Gravatt	.....1	Brisbane Lions	.....4
Rochdale Rov	.....3	B'Berg Waves	.....2
Taringa Rovers	.....1	Wynnum	.....2

### DIVISION ONE SOUTH

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Rocklea Utd	10	9	1	0	41	13	28	28
Capalaba	9	6	0	3	18	11	7	18
Souths Utd	9	4	2	3	19	10	9	14
Slacks Creek	10	4	2	4	23	26	-3	14
Olympic Utd	10	4	0	6	20	22	-2	12
Beenleigh	9	3	2	4	17	22	-5	11
Inala City	10	3	1	6	18	30	-12	10
Redlands Utd	9	2	3	4	12	22	-10	9
Acacia Ridge	10	1	3	6	13	25	-12	6

### ROUND 10 SCORES

Slacks Creek	.....5	Inala City	.....2
Redlands Utd	.....1	Acacia Ridge	.....3
Olympic Utd	.....0	Rocklea Utd	.....3
Beenleigh	.....0	Bye	.....0
South Utd	.....1	Capalaba	.....0


### DIVISION ONE NORTH

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
North Star	9	7	0	2	28	12	16	21
Eastern Subs	10	5	4	1	14	8	6	19
Albany Creek	10	5	3	2	21	16	5	18
Pine Rivers Utd	10	5	2	3	17	11	6	17
Newmarket	9	5	1	3	18	13	5	16
Uni of Qld	10	4	1	5	15	19	-4	13
Mitchelton	9	1	3	5	11	19	-8	6
Grange Thistle	9	1	3	5	10	20	-10	6
The Gap	8	0	1	7	15	31	-16	1

### ROUND 10 SCORES

Grange Thistle	.....0	Pine Rivers Utd	.....3
Albany Creek	.....1	Mitchelton	.....1
Eastern Subs	.....2	Uni of Qld	.....0
Newmarket	.....0	Bye	.....0
North Star	.....4	The Gap	.....0



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# PREMIER LEAGUE



## GREEN MACHINE ROLLS EAGLES

SIX OF THE BEST FROM BENTLEIGH  
AS SPRINGVALE CRUMBLES

### SOUTH DANDENONG 2 PORT MELBOURNE 2

By Kevin Christopher

Port Melbourne maintained their lead in the Victorian Premier League on Saturday afternoon by coming from behind twice to force a 2-2 draw at South Dandenong.

Port will rue the dropped points as the season approaches the halfway mark, but South Dandenong deserved their point after providing the sun-drenched crowd of over 800 with a display which showed enough determination, particularly in the closing stages, to suggest they may yet avoid relegation.

They also exposed some glaring deficiencies in the Port defence. Carlo Villani put the hosts ahead after 32 minutes, beating Sharks' keeper Jamie Cooper with a shot on the run after being played in by Agon Tarveski. Villani was forced to leave the field almost immediately however after suffering what appeared to be an ankle injury.

Port Melbourne levelled the fixture three minutes before the break when they were awarded a penalty. Kosta Camakamis converted his second spot kick in as many weeks after Nick Tsaltas was upended by Larin Rusmir inside the box.

Seven minutes into the second half, the Kiwi all Aussies love to hate, Billy Wright, let fly with a 30 metre pass which allowed Viktor Memeti to go one-on-one with Cooper. Memeti converted to send the home supporters into raptures, and almost sealed the match minutes later when a sensational fifty metre run past four opponents finished with a shot which went just wide of the upright.

The home side thought they had scored just prior to the hour mark, but substitute Reshat Mezensof's header was ruled out for offside. Almost immediately, Port equalised. A beautiful move involving Tsaltas and John Pappas ended with Nick Palamaras picking his spot from ten metres with almost embarrassing ease, showing South Dandenong too have their defensive frailties.

The visitors dominated the final thirty minutes, with Peter Kakos having a number of chances to add to his season's tally of 11. He went extremely close after 76 minutes, with his effort cleared off the line by Valiant Mucaj, while a hat-trick of late headers could have altered the final result as well. For the hosts, they will be happy to have picked up a point on a day when Falmir Lumanovski, Rasimi and Villani all picked up injuries.

**South:** Roche, Rasimi, Tarevski, Runje (Muriqi), Lumanovski, Kirichian, Mucaj, Memeti, Van Egmond, Wright, Villani (Zekirja).

**Sharks:** Cooper, Vargas, Knezevic, Fak, Latinopoulos, Tsirtis, Palamaras, Pappas, Tsaltas, Kakos, Camakamis (Sonsini).

**Votes:** 3- Fak (PM), 2- Memeti (SD), 1- Camakamis (PM)

### FAWKNER 3 SUNSHINE 0

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Sunshine Georgies troubled season continued to get worse on Sunday when they were beaten 3-0 at Fawkner.

The Georgies, at the bottom of the league table, would have been thankful for some ordinary Fawkner

finishing which left the score half-respectable.

Frank Tramontana's fourth minute goal looked a sign of things to come for Sunshine, yet attack after attack brought no reward for Fawkner.

Peter Psaros and Santo Emmanuele's combining up front had the Georgies in all sorts of trouble, but building on the Blues lead proved to be difficult.

Not that they didn't have the chances. Psaros had three good opportunities to find the target whilst Emmanuele hit the side netting and had a shot well saved by Steve Wardle.

Sunshine came back at Fawkner a little in the second half, but it was still the Blues who continued to create the better goal scoring chances.

Fawkner finally got a second goal nine minutes from time. Peter Bordignon's corner bounced off Georgies substitute Cesar Hermosilla and sat up nicely for Psaros to swing the ball into the net.

Fawkner substitute Tamer Simsek sealed the points with a third goal in the 87th minute when he was picked out by Martin Collins' through ball.

**Blues:** Gonzalez, Tramontana, Grmoud, Chillico, Schipano, V. Ferrante, Bordignon, De Santis (Simsek), Emmanuele (Alexopoulos), Collins, Psaros (Di Sauro).

**Georgies:** Wardle, Bot, Marinkovic (Rozanitis), Krajacic, Debono (Hermosilla), Tambouras, Allain, Recchia, Opazo, Kathopoulos, Stojanovski.

**Referee:** Hakan Anaz

**Votes:** 3- Bordignon (FB), 2- Collins (FB), 1- Grmoud (FB)

### BENTLEIGH GREENS 6 SPRINGVALE WHITE 1

By Milan Ninovic

Bentleigh Greens recorded their biggest win of the season, banging in six goals against a hapless Springvale White Eagles.

Bentleigh simply destroyed the White Eagles, particularly their defence where the likes of Juan Nilo, Tom Karapatsos and Harry Michell ran riot.

They began the goal feast after eight minutes when Michell scored.

Just a couple of minutes later, Springvale appeared to be back into the game when their leading scorer Zlatko Mihajlovic found the target.

Nilo then restored the Greens advantage, scoring in the 15th minute.

The White Eagles' - already missing some key players - cause wasn't helped when they lost defender Billy Armour in the 28th minute to injury.

In the last 25 minutes, Bentleigh took Springvale apart.

First, Stelios Drakos scored in the 66th minute and then substitute John Papettas was on target in the 78th and 84th minutes.

Another substitute, Cameron Pino, put the White Eagles out of their misery with Bentleigh's sixth goal two minutes into stoppage time.

**Greens:** Clarke, Karapatsos (Pino), Michell (Kotsovolos), McDonagh, Constantinou, Drakos, Kourkoutzelos, Rossios, Nilo (Papettas), Mladenovic, Kalimens.

**White Eagles:** Simic, Mlinar, Calommo, Armour (Oter), Styczen, Poutakidis, Nikolic, Rikanovic (Stojanac), Mandic, Z. Mihajlovic, Gacovski.

**Referee:** Bruno D'Amello

**Votes:** 3- McDonagh (BG), 2- Michell (BG), 1- Z. Mihajlovic (SWE)

## LIONS USURP THE KINGS

### ALTONA EAST 0 WESTVALE 0

By John Rigas

Altona East and Westvale played out an exciting scoreless draw at a packed Paisley Park on Sunday.

Both sides had come off significant wins earlier in the week with Altona defeating champions Bulleen and Westvale accounting for the highly-fancied Bentleigh Greens.

Neither side could break the deadlock despite the numerous chances both sides had.

Westvale's Zoran Cvetkovski could have opened the scoring after twelve minutes when he forced goalkeeper San Frangos into a diving save.

Striker Saso Markovski did well to dribble his way through the Phoenix defence but, looking for his first Westvale goal, his shot struck an upright.

Markovski was in the thick of the action again soon after, this time forcing Frangos into a spectacular save from close range right on the stroke of half time.

Striker George Angelos could have been the hero for the Phoenix, coming close in the 49th and 70th minutes.

A minute into stoppage time, Gerry McAleer should have won the points for Westvale by was denied by more Frangos heroics.

**Phoenix:** Frangos, Dimitrelos (Papadopoulos), R. Antoniadis, Kapulica, De Amicis, Donnelly, L. Catalano, Bartol, Angelos (F. Catalano), T. Antoniadis, Groidis (Schwal).

**Westvale:** Acteson, Bergam (T. Timotheou), Culina, Zach, Medjedovic, Brown, Hasler, Markovski, Cvetkovski (Karasavidis), Novacevski (Peppas), McAleer.

**Referee:** Robert Josifoski

**Votes:** 3- R. Antoniadis (AE), 2- McAleer (W), 1- Brown (W)

### PRESTON 2 BULLEEN 1

By George Koukeris

Preston Lions beat Bulleen Inter Kings 2-1 at Goodyear Stadium on Sunday.

Preston were down to ten men from the 26th minute after Anthony Burlak received his marching orders for an obvious late tackle on Agim Sherifovski.

In the 32nd minute a counter-attack by the Lions resulted in a penalty awarded when Frank Valentice and Warren Spink contested a 50/50 ball. As the ball spilled over the line, Spink fell and orchestrated a worthwhile appeal.

Cheis Emeovski stepped up to take the spot kick and plant into the safe hands of Sean Keogh for true justice.

It didn't take the Lions long to counter again, in fact just six minutes later they produced some fantastic football to rip right through the Kings defence.

Emsovski and Josip Kozic helped Kamer Simsek get the final touch to give the Lions the lead seven minutes before the break.

The Lions pressed ahead to put the game out of reach and succeeded in the 72nd minute when Emsovski made amends for his missed penalty when he thundered home from 15 metres.

In the 83rd minute Sava Rusmir continued play inside the penalty area amid confusion over an offside ruling and recorded the Kings only goal of the game.

**Lions:** Acevski, Slavski, Kovacic, Ognjenovski, Kozic (Ujgunovski), Simsek, Spink, Talevski (Lisolski), Burlak (sent off), Emsovski, Stojcevski.

**Kings:** Keogh, Valentice (Tartaglia), Stojcevski (Bresciano), Della Rocca, Mazzini, Babic, Waddell (Sulemani), Onjadic, Sherifovski, Grbac, Rusmir.

**Votes:** 3- Stojcevski (PL), 2- Babic (BK), 1- Kozic (PL)

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### ROUND 11 DETAILS

Bulleen Inter Kings 0 - Altona East 1 (Donnelly)a  
Westvale 1 - (Goutzioulis) - Bentleigh Greens 0

### ROUND 12 DETAILS

South Dandenong 2 Port Melbourne Sharks 2, Fawkner Blues 3 Sunshine Georgies 0,  
Bentleigh Greens 6 Springvale White Eagles 1, Altona East 0 Westvale 0, Preston  
Lions 2 Bulleen Inter Kings 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne Sharks	12	8	3	1	29	12	27
Preston Lions	12	8	0	4	27	16	24
Green Gully Cavaliers	11	7	2	2	25	14	23
Melbourne Raiders	11	5	3	3	17	16	18
Bentleigh Greens	12	4	5	3	24	15	17
Fawkner Blues	12	5	2	5	19	16	17
Altona East	12	4	3	5	12	17	15
Bulleen Inter Kings	12	3	5	4	16	14	14
St Albans Saints	11	4	2	5	15	18	14
Altona Magic	11	4	2	5	19	28	14
South Dandenong	12	3	4	5	19	22	13
Springvale White Eagles	12	3	3	6	15	20	12
Westvale	12	2	4	6	12	25	10
Sunshine Georgies	12	2	2	8	12	28	8

### ROUND 13 FIXTURES

#### Sunday May 2

Port Melbourne Sharks v Bulleen Inter Kings - kick off 3pm at Anderson Reserve  
Springvale White Eagles v Altona East - kick off 3pm at Serbian Sports Centre  
Sunshine Georgies v Bentleigh Greens - kick off 3pm at Chaplin Reserve  
St Albans Saints v Green Gully Cavaliers - kick off 3pm at Churchill Reserve

#### Monday May 3

Westvale v Preston Lions - kick off 8.15pm at Green Gully Reserve  
Melbourne Raiders v South Dandenong - kick off 8.15pm at Epping Soccer Stadium





# VICTORIAN LEAGUES



## CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lalor United	4	3	0	1	8	2	9
Heidelberg United	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Oakleigh	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
Western Suburbs	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Nth G. Warriors	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Westgate	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Kingston City	4	2	0	2	5	7	6
Melbourne City	4	2	0	2	6	10	6
Doncaster Rovers	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
Richmond	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
Springvale City	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Yarraville Glory	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Northcote City	3	0	1	2	5	7	1
Werribee City	4	0	0	4	2	10	0

### DIVISION 1 - ROUND 4

Heidelberg United 2 - Northcote City 1



### ROUND 5

Lalor United 3 - Western Suburbs 1  
Yarraville Glory 1 - Kingston City 2  
Northcote City 5 - Springvale City 0  
Melbourne City 2 - Heidelberg United 5  
North Geelong Warriors 1 - Doncaster Rovers 1  
Oakleigh 1 - Westgate 0  
Richmond 1 - Werribee City 1

Heidelberg United	5	5	0	0	15	5	15
Lalor United	5	4	0	1	11	3	12
Oakleigh	5	4	0	1	7	2	12
Kingston City	5	3	0	2	7	8	9
Nth G. Warriors	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Western Suburbs	5	2	1	2	8	7	7
Westgate	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Melbourne City	5	2	0	3	8	15	6
Doncaster Rovers	5	1	2	2	7	7	5
Richmond	5	1	2	2	7	8	5
Northcote City	5	1	1	3	11	9	4
Yarraville Glory	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
Springvale City	5	1	1	3	3	10	4
Werribee City	5	0	1	4	3	11	1

### ROUND 6 FIXTURES

Sunday May 2

Werribee City v Yarraville Glory  
Westgate v Richmond  
Doncaster Rovers v Oakleigh  
Kingston City v Northcote City  
Western Suburbs v North Geelong Warriors  
Springvale City v Melbourne City

Monday May 3

Heidelberg United v Lalor United (kick off 8.30pm)

### DIVISION 2 - ROUND 5

East Richmond 2 - Satellite City Rovers 0  
Essendon 0 - Croydon City Arrows 0  
Frankston Pines 7 - Geelong 0  
Thomastown/Regent 0 - Frankston Strikers 0  
Knox City 0 - Altona City 1  
Ringwood City 5 - Diamond Valley United 5  
Cranbourne Comets 3 - Old Scotch Waverley 1

Table	5	3	2	0	18	3	11
Frankston Pines	5	3	2	0	9	1	11
Essendon	5	3	2	0	12	5	11
Cranbourne Comets	5	3	0	2	8	3	9
Knox City	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Old Scotch Waverley	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Thomastown/Regent	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Geelong	5	2	2	1	9	10	8
Altona City	5	2	1	2	3	8	7
Croydon City Arrows	5	1	1	3	3	7	4
Satellite City Rovers	5	1	1	3	4	12	4
Frankston Strikers	5	0	3	2	2	8	3

## CRAZY JOHN'S MOBILEWORLD COMMUNICATIONS

Diamond Valley United	5	0	1	4	7	14	1
Ringwood City	5	0	1	4	6	16	1

### ROUND 6 FIXTURES

Friday April 30

Geelong v Thomastown/Regent (kick off 8.30pm)

Saturday May 1

Diamond Valley United v Cranbourne Comets  
Altona City v Ringwood City  
Frankston Strikers v Knox City  
Old Scotch Waverley v East Richmond  
Croydon City Arrows v Frankston Pines  
Satellite City Rovers v Essendon

### DIVISION 3 - ROUND 5

Banyule City 2 - Laverton Park 2  
North Coburg United 4 - Stonnington City 1  
Mooroolbark 2 - Moreland City 2  
Bell Park 0 - South Springvale 0  
Broadmeadows City 0 - Williamstown 4  
Fitzroy City 1 - South Wantirna 2  
Keilor Park 6 - Pascoe Vale 3

Stonnington City	5	4	0	1	11	6	12
Williamstown	5	3	2	0	15	7	11
South Wantirna	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Moreland City	5	3	1	1	11	8	10
South Springvale	5	2	3	0	6	-3	9
Nth Coburg United	5	2	2	1	10	6	8
Fitzroy City	5	2	2	1	12	9	8
Keilor Park	5	2	0	3	8	10	6
Bell Park	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
Mooroolbark	5	1	2	2	4	8	5
Pascoe Vale	5	1	1	3	7	13	4
Broadmeadows City	5	1	1	3	12	4	4
Laverton Park	5	0	2	3	7	12	2
Banyule City	5	0	1	4	7	13	1

### ROUND 6 FIXTURES

Saturday May 1

South Wantirna v Keilor Park  
Williamstown v Fitzroy City  
South Springvale v Broadmeadows City  
Pascoe Vale v Banyule City  
Moreland City v Bell Park  
Stonnington City v Mooroolbark  
Laverton Park v North Coburg United

### DIVISION 4 - ROUND 5

Croxton Park 3 - Sunbury United 0  
Chelsea 1 - Clifton Hill United 3  
Langwarrin 3 - Lyndale United 1  
Geelong Rangers 1 - Seaford United 2  
Keysborough 1 - Sandringham City 2  
Corio 4 - Nunawading City 0  
Melton 1 - Lalor 3

Langwarrin	5	5	0	0	19	4	15
Croxton Park	5	3	2	0	16	9	11
Sandringham City	5	3	1	1	14	10	10
Lalor	5	3	0	2	13	13	9
Seaford United	5	3	0	2	8	11	9
Lyndale United	5	2	2	1	12	11	8
Keysborough	5	2	0	3	11	8	6
Sunbury United	5	2	0	3	6	7	6
Nunawading City	5	2	0	3	6	9	6
Melton	5	1	2	2	5	8	5
Clifton Hill United	5	1	1	3	10	14	4
Corio	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
Geelong Rangers	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
Chelsea	5	1	0	4	7	15	3

### ROUND 6 FIXTURES

Saturday May 1

Nunawading City v Melton  
Sandringham City v Corio  
Seaford United v Keysborough  
Lalor v Croxton Park  
Lyndale United v Geelong Rangers  
Clifton Hill United v Langwarrin

Sunbury United v Chelsea

### PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

#### DIVISION 1 - ROUND 3

Sydenham Park 4 - Mitcham United 2  
South Caulfield 1 - Springvale Condors 1  
Morwell Pegasus 2 - Monbulk 0  
Endeavour United 4 - North Sunshine Eagles 1  
Riversdale 1 - Dandenong 1  
Brunswick City 1 - Templestowe Eagles 0  
Morwell Pegasus 3 3 0 0 10 1 9  
Endeavour United 3 3 0 0 9 3 9  
Brunswick City 3 3 0 0 5 2 9  
Sydenham Park 3 2 1 0 9 4 7  
Riversdale 3 1 1 1 4 3 4  
South Caulfield 3 1 1 1 8 9 4  
Mitcham United 3 1 0 2 6 7 3  
North Sunshine Eagles 3 1 0 2 6 11 3  
Dandenong 3 0 1 2 3 6 1  
Monbulk 3 0 1 2 4 8 1  
Springvale Condors 3 0 1 2 2 8 1  
Templestowe Eagles 3 0 0 3 3 7 0

#### ROUND 4 FIXTURES

Saturday May 1

Templestowe Eagles v Dandenong  
North Sunshine Eagles v Brunswick City  
Monbulk v Endeavour United  
Springvale Condors v Morwell Pegasus  
Mitcham United v South Caulfield  
Sydenham Park v Riversdale

#### DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 3

Elwood City 1 - Ballarat 3  
Meadow Park 0 - Somerton City 1  
South Yarra 1 - Hoppers Crossing 3  
Keon Park 2 - Broadmeadows United 2  
University of Melbourne 2 - Glenroy 2  
Mill Park 3 - Melbourne University 1

Table	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
Glenroy	3	2	1	0	11	6	7
Uni. of Melbourne	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Ballarat	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Hoppers Crossing	3	2	0	1	8	6	6
Somerton City	3	1	1	1	9	4	4
Mill Park	3	1	1	1	7	6	4
Broadmeadows United	3	1	1	1	8	8	4
Elwood City	3	1	1	1	8	8	4
Meadow Park	3	1	0	2	5	12	3
Keon Park	3	0	2	1	3	6	2
Melbourne University	3	0	1	2	4	10	1
South Yarra	3	0	0	3	3	9	0

#### ROUND 4 FIXTURES

Saturday May 1

Glenroy v Mill Park  
Broadmeadows United v University of Melbourne  
Hoppers Crossing v Keon Park  
Melbourne University v Elwood City  
Somerton City v South Yarra  
Ballarat v Meadow Park

#### DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 3

Waverley Wanderers 4 - Dingley City 1  
Monash University 4 - Braeside United 1  
Doveton 0 - Heatherton United 2

Noble Park 2 - Newborough/Yallourn 3  
Ashburton 2 - Clayton 1  
Dandenong Inter 1 - Brandon Park 2

Waverley Wanderers	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
Newborough/Yallourn	3	2	1	0	6	4	7
Clayton	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Ashburton	3	2	0	1	7	6	6
Dingley City	3	2	0	1	5	6	6
Heatherton United	3	2	0	1	4	5	6
Doveton	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Monash University	3	1	0	2	6	5	3
Noble Park	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Brandon Park	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Dandenong Inter	3	0	0	3	4	8	0
Braeside United	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

#### ROUND 4 FIXTURES

Saturday May 1

Brandon Park v Clayton  
Newborough/Yallourn v Dandenong Inter  
Heatherton United v Noble Park  
Braeside United v Doveton  
Dingley City v Monash University  
Waverley Wanderers v Ashburton

#### DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 3

Northern United 2 - Flemington Falcons 0  
Brimbank City 2 - Whittlesea United 1  
La Trobe University 3 - West Preston 2  
Keilor United 5 - Watsonia Heights 1  
North Glenroy 1 - Brimbank 0  
Darebin United 5 - North Reservoir 0

Keilor United	3	2	1	0	11	4	7
Whittlesea United	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
North Glenroy	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Brimbank City	3	1	2	0	6	5	5
West Preston	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Brimbank	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Watsonia Heights	3	1	1	1	6	9	4
North Reservoir	3	1	1	1	2	5	4
La Trobe University	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
Darebin United	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Northern United	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Flemington Falcons	3	0	1	2	0	3	1

#### ROUND 4 FIXTURES

Sunday May 2

Brimbank v Darebin United  
Watsonia Heights v North Glenroy  
West Preston v Keilor United  
North Reservoir v Northern United  
Whittlesea United v La Trobe University  
Flemington Falcons v Brimbank City

#### DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 3

Ivanhoe United 0 - Beaumaris 0  
Endeavour Hills 6 - Newport United 0  
Noble Park United 4 - Rowville Eagles 2  
Thornbury United 2 - Collingwood City 2  
Old Camberwell Grammar 1 - North Caulfield 2  
Parkmore 2 - Moreland United 2

Endeavour Hills	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
Ivanhoe United	3	2	1	0	5	0	7
Noble Park United	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Moreland United	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Thornbury United	2	1	1	0	6	4	4
Collingwood City	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Beaumaris	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
North Caulfield	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Old Camber. Gram.	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Parkmore	3	0	2	1	6	8	2
Rowville Eagles	3	0	0	3	4	9	0
Newport United	3	0	0	3	2	12	0

#### ROUND 4 FIXTURES

Sunday May 2

North Caulfield v Parkmore  
Collingwood City v Old Camberwell Grammar  
Rowville Eagles v Thornbury United  
Moreland United v Ivanhoe United  
Newport United v Noble Park United  
Beaumaris v Endeavour Hills





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By Graham Cooke

## THE WANDERER!

**W**eston Creek Royals' soccer gipsy, Peter Hader, plans to set up camp in Canberra for a while - and that could be bad news for the other nine defences in the ACT premiership.

Hader has travelled the world in pursuit of his soccer career: From the third division of Germany to the first division of Indonesia; a chance to play against European giants Ajax and Feyenoord snatched away in Holland, and a season in Britain's battling semi-professional ranks.

But now the man who once revelled in the service provided him by Cameroon super veteran Roger Milla has decided to resume his partnership with the high-scoring Steve Lazzari in the Royals' front line.

The decision came after he talked it over with his mother, Christine, who he readily admits is the most significant influence on his soccer career.

She has been behind me and encouraged me in everything I have done," Hader said before a Royals training session. "There was a fair bit of interest in me overseas, but I kept on running into the problem of work permits and clearances.

"I have an Austrian father and a Hungarian mother...I could get an Austrian passport, but that would involve me renouncing my Australian citizenship, which I am not prepared to do. There wouldn't have been a problem with Hungary, but until they are a member of the European Union, it is not worthwhile.

As a result he could not take up a contract with second division Dutch club Ado-Den Haag, missing a pre-season tournament which would have seen him turning out against the top clubs in the country.

"I was playing for Dagenham and Redbridge in Britain, but again I could not accept professional terms. My mum advised me that at this stage of my career it would be better to come back to Australia and concentrate on getting into the Ericsson Cup, so here I am."

It will be a major lifestyle change for the globe-



Peter Hader "has plans to make it in the NSL"

trotting 23-year-old, who struck up a partnership with Milla during trial games at the Indonesian club of Pelita Jaya while on holiday visiting his engineer father. He has played for other clubs in the country and is wanted back, but sees the experience there more as a stepping stone than an end in itself.

He says many people have asked him why he has gone back to Weston Creek, where he played before his European venture, when he could have made more money elsewhere.

"It's simple, with Jimmy Bland here as coach I believe I can improve my football. If I do that I have a better chance of being noticed by [Canberra Cosmos coach] Tom Sermanni and getting into the National League. That's my overriding ambition at the moment, and I plan to put everything into achieving it."

For the man of many moves, that last trip across town to Bruce Stadium is the one which really counts.

## CREEK SIGNS SEMENO

**W**eston Creek Royals have won the race to sign one of the Premiership's most exciting midfield talents, Manuel Semeno.

The teenager was under contract to Queanbeyan City, but with that club heading for a disastrous season after

Royals coach Jimmy Bland said Semeno first came to his notice when he was in charge of the Young Rockets representative team.

"We played the Olyroos and, quite frankly, Manuel would not have looked out of place in their team," he said. "He has excellent ball skills, and with a shortage of creative midfielders in Canberra at the moment, he'll be a great asset."

With Semeno and Peter Hader added to its squad, the Creek looks set to at least equal its best premiership season in 1997, when it reached the finals for the first time.

Japanese student Yuki Onda has been putting himself about in local soccer since coming to the ACT in 1997.

He played that season with Weston Creek Royals' youth team, then the following year broke into first-team football with Queanbeyan City.

This season he has linked with top-four contender Capital City Suns and it seems it will be only a matter of time before he cements a place in the starting line-up.

On top of this he has been helping out with clerical work at Soccer Canberra's headquarters - not bad for a youngster whose English was severely limited



heavy losses in its opening games, it accepted it would be wrong to hang on to such a quality young player. just two years ago.

**W**eston Creek Royals retained a 100 per cent record in the ACT Premiership with a third-round 5-2 win over University of Canberra at Woden Park on Sunday.

The league leader remains Belconnen United which dispatched bottom club Queanbeyan City 8-1 at Riverside, and Monaro remains right on the leaders' tails after a 7-2 win over Burns Club.

Royals were flattered by the three-goal margin, and it took a half-time wake-up call from coach Jimmy Bland before they asserted authority. That lapse apart, there are signs the club will be a true force in the competition this year.

The return of Peter Hader to partner Steve Lazzari gives it a formidable strike force, while a new-look midfield could develop into one of the most highly powered in the competition.

There remain problems in defence, and if the University had made better use of Daman Toivonen's long-range throw-ins, the result would have been closer.

Hader got Royals off to a good start when he connected with a cross from Matt Stocks, and bundled the ball over the line. Then Martin Lazzari added to the score when he pounced on a rebounding ball after his brother, Steve, had hit the post.

The University got one back through Dominic Bartone and looked stronger going into the interval. "I told my players at half time that if they didn't lift their game, they would be looking down the barrel at a bad result," Bland said.

His words had the desired effect, as the Lazzari show got on the road in the second half. Steve made it 3-1 in the 49th minute, Martin added a fourth when his free kick was deflected out of reach of goalkeeper Chris Freeman, then some more good supply work from Stocks set-up Steve for the fifth. University got on back through an own goal in the 90th minute.

Visiting coach Rod Lynes said the first half had been his team's best of the season. "But we have to learn to play for 90 minutes, not 45," he said. "Even so, there were some good signs out there."

"It was billed as the ACT Premier League's match of the round but this grim, error-filled goal-less draw between Canberra Deakin and Canberra Olympic on

Saturday was hardly an advertisement for soccer in the area.

It was a stumbling, hesitant display from two teams who seemed unable to handle the wide expanses of Bruce Stadium, both terrified of losing in front of the spectators coming in for the Ericsson Cup match which followed.

A goal might have made a difference, but with uniformly miserable finishing there was rarely a chance of that. The closest anyone came was when Olympic's Geoff Howarth was fouled in the Deakin penalty area, but Njegosh Popovich's spot kick was not decisive enough and anyway goalkeeper Pedro Pavez guessed the direction.

The result was a competent though hardly spectacular save, and the game's best chance of being opened up was gone.

After Deakin's Ben Deighan was dismissed for his second yellow card offence the game swung Olympic's way. Popovich almost made amends for his penalty miss with the best shot of the afternoon, which beat Pavez only to rebound off the post.

\*Monaro routed Burns Club with six goals in the first half, but was glad of that margin after the interval, when its opponent came back strongly, "winning" the second 45 minutes 2-1. Coach Ian Heywood said Monaro got into some "bad habits...but we were still clearly the better side."

Scorers for Monaro were Danny Macor (2), Matt Cachia, Valerio Galeotti, Lazar Simeonov, Jimmy Baxter and John Rakic. Josh Turko and Mark Collett replied for Burns.

In other matches Queanbeyan took another trouncing, this time 8-1 at the hands of Belconnen. United's scorers were Adrian Dowling (2), Tim Francis, Scott Manson, Aaron Fuller, Matt Whyte, Obby Shadmaan and Stuart Camera. Steve Roberts provided City's solitary goal.

And Capital City Suns held a 2-0 lead until the last nick of the game against Gungahlin Juventus, when Neil Stoddart got one back. Suns scored through Gus Cerro and Tony Lemeza.

### ACT PREMIER LEAGUE Division 1

Burns Club	2	Monaro	7
Queanbeyan City	1	Belconnen United	8
Canberra Olympic	0	Canberra Deakin	0
Weston Creek Royals	5	Uni. of Canberra	2
Gungahlin Juventus	1	Capital City Suns	2

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belconnen United	3	3	0	0	0	14	3	9
Weston Creek Royals	3	3	0	0	0	9	2	9
Monaro	3	2	1	0	0	15	3	8
Capital City Suns	3	1	1	0	1	4	4	5
Canberra Olympic	3	1	0	1	1	3	3	4
Canberra Deakin	3	0	1	1	1	2	3	3
Burns Club	3	1	0	0	2	4	10	3
Gungahlin Juventus	3	0	1	0	2	4	8	2
Queanbeyan City	3	0	0	0	3	2	21	0

Under 23: Burns Club 0 Monaro 1, Queanbeyan City 0 Belconnen United 24, Canberra Olympic 1 Canberra Deakin 0, Weston Creek Royals 3 University of Canberra 0, Gungahlin Juventus 5 Capital City Suns 4. Points: Belconnen United 9, Monaro 9, Canberra Olympic 8, University of Canberra 6, Weston Creek Royals 6, Capital City Suns 3, Gungahlin Juventus 3, Burns Club 2, Canberra Deakin 0, Queanbeyan City 0.

Under 19: Burns Club 2 Monaro 4, Queanbeyan City 1 Belconnen United 5, Canberra Olympic 0 Canberra Deakin 2, Weston Creek Royals 1 University of Canberra 2, Gungahlin Juventus 5 Capital City Suns 0. Points: Belconnen United 9, University of Canberra 9, Weston Creek Royals 6, Gungahlin Juventus 6, Monaro 6, Canberra Deakin 6, Burns Club 3, Queanbeyan City 0, Canberra Olympic 0, Capital City Suns 0.

### Division Two

Belwest	4	ANU	4
Cooma	2	Defence Sabres	0
Tuggeranong United	4	Defence Academy	1
White Eagles	1	O'Connor Knights	3

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tuggeranong United	3	3	0	0	0	11	4	9
O'Connor Knights	3	3	0	0	0	8	1	9
ANU	3	1	1	0	1	10	7	5
Belwest	3	1	1	0	1	8	9	5
Cooma	2	1	0	0	1	2	2	3
White Eagles	3	1	0	0	2	4	5	3
Defence Academy	2	0	0	0	2	1	6	0
Defence Sabres	3	0	0	0	3	0	10	0

Reserves: Belwest 1 ANU 3, Cooma 1 Defence Sabres 5, Tuggeranong United 5 Defence Academy 3, White Eagles 0 O'Connor Knights 1.

Points: O'Connor Knights 9, Belwest 6, Tuggeranong United 6, ANU 6, White Eagles 3, Defence Sabres 3, Defence Academy 0, Cooma 0.

### ACT STATE LEAGUE

Division 1: Belconnen United 3 ANU 1, University of Canberra 1 Canberra City 1, Southern Spirit 2 Burns Club 5, Gungahlin Juventus 3 Monaro 3.

Division 2: Belconnen United 1 ANU 1, University of Canberra 4 Canberra City 1, Tuggeranong United 0 Burns Club 1, Valley Blues 2 Belwest 3, Gungahlin Juventus 4.

Division 3: Defence Academy II 5 Tuggeranong United 0, Canberra City 3 University of Canberra II 2, Valley Blues 1 Fyshwick 3, Defence Academy 1 Weston Creek Royals 4.

Division 4: Canberra City 1 University of Canberra II 0, Valley Blues 2 Fyshwick 0, Defence Academy 0 Weston Creek Royals 6.

### Sunday May 2

Belconnen United v Burns Club	Hawker Oval
Capital City Suns v Queanbeyan City	O'Connor Oval
Uni. of Canberra v Can. Olympic	University Oval
Can. Deakin v Gungahlin Juventus	Deakin Oval
Monaro v Weston Creek Royals	Riverside

First Grade 2pm, Under 23s noon, Under 19s 10am



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# ITALY

**S**erie A leader Lazio, coming off two straight losses, edged out Sampdoria 1-0 courtesy of a Christian Vieri header on Sunday to stay one point ahead of a surging AC Milan.

Lazio did not play like a champion, rarely threatening on offense and shaky on defense, but held on to the top spot with four games remaining in the season.

Vieri settled the outcome with 30 minutes left, rising to meet Portuguese midfielder Sergio Conceicao's cross from the right wing for his ninth goal. Both clubs ended the game with 10 players after Lazio's Matias Almeyda and Sampdoria's Anei Ortega were kicked out in separate incidents six minutes apart midway through the second half.

Milan, suddenly in the hunt for its fifth title of the 1990s, stretched its unbeaten string to seven games by beating Vicenza 2-0 with goals by Oliver Bierhoff and Leonardo.

"This sets up a beautiful duel right down to the wire," Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson said. "We suffered a lot against Sampdoria today but we managed to win and that's all that counts."

Lazio, which captured its lone Serie A trophy in 1974, is on 59 points, while Milan is just one point behind them.

Lazio has a tough road test at Udinese next Sunday, while Milan hosts Sampdoria.

It will be a two-team race for the championship because third-place Fiorentina lost 2-1 at Juventus and slid to eight points behind Lazio. Juve recovered from its Champions Cup loss to Manchester United and moved back into the hunt for a berth in Europe's most prestigious club tournament next year.

In other key games, Italy striker Francesco Totti's free kick with eight minutes left gave AS Roma a 1-0 victory over AC Parma, while Marco Amoroso scored twice in Udinese's 3-1 win at Inter Milan.

The results left Parma fourth with 49 points, while Roma, Juventus and Udinese are tied with 48.

At the other end of the standings, last-place Empoli became the first team assured of relegation to Serie B next season by losing to Bari 2-0. Empoli is 4-9-17 for 19 points.

## LAZIO 1 SAMPDORIA 0

At Genoa, Lazio won for the second time in its last

# LAZIO SHOW THAT IT'S NOT OVER

six games. The club has scored a total of five goals in that span, after averaging two per game before that.

Other than Vieri's tally, Lazio only threatened the hosts by way of Yugoslav defender Sinisa Mihajlovic's free kicks. He took seven in the first half alone, and came closest to scoring on one from 30 yards out in the 35th minute. That shot was blocked, and veteran striker Roberto Mancini, who spent 15 seasons with Sampdoria before moving to Lazio with Eriksson in 1996, sent the rebound over the bar.

Sampdoria saw striker Francesco Palmieri's 15-yard shot shave the post with keeper Luca Marchegiani beaten in the 29th, and Vincenzo Montella had an open look at the net in injury time but his effort also went just wide.

## MILAN 2 VICENZA 0

In Vicenza, Bierhoff spun away from the defender marking him and met Andreas Guglielminpietro's perfect cross to head the ball home in the 39th minute. Twelve of the German striker's 15 goals this season have come from headers. Leonardo replaced Zvonimir Boban in the 51st and fired in his 10th goal with a diagonal shot after an individual run in the 71st minute.

"The strength of my squad is that when a player is missing, whoever replaces him seems to make something happen," Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni said.

Vicenza had won three straight at home prior to their clash with Milan.

## JUVE 2 FIORINA 1

At Turin, midfielder Antonio Conte latched on to a rebound and rounded keeper Francesco Toldo before scoring the winner with three minutes left for Juventus.

Fiorentina had equalized two minutes earlier, when substitute striker Luis Oliveira emerged from a goalmouth scramble off a free kick to tap the ball into the back of the net.

Filippo Inzaghi, whose two early goals against Manchester United didn't count for much in Juve's 3-2 Champions League loss, gave the hosts the early lead by heading in French midfielder Didier Deschamps' cross from the right wing in the 24th minute.

And in other news, Juve expects its star striker Zinedine Zidane to stay at the club, despite rumours that his wife would prefer a move to Spain.

## ROMA 1 PARMA 0

In Rome, Totti directed a free kick from the edge of the penalty area inside the far post for the hosts which saw starting keeper Michael Konsel of Austria leave the field injured in the 18th minute.

Parma which qualified for the UEFA Cup final last week, lost its fourth straight away game.

## UDINESE 3 INTER 1

At Milan, where Udinese hadn't won since 1957, Amoroso opened the scoring with a spot kick in the 11th minute and closed a counterattack in the 64th to take his season total to 17 goals, second in Serie A to Fiorentina striker Gabriel Batistuta who is sitting on 19.

## BARİ 2 EMPOLİ 0

At Empoli, South African striker Phil Masinga scored his 10th goal of the season in the 71st minute while midfielder Michele Marcolini sealed the win for Bari with a goal in the final minute.



Lazio's Nesta midweek after their Cup success over Lokomotiv.

## VENEZIA 1 PIACENZA 0

In Piacenza, striker Filippo Maniero headed in an Alvaro Recoba free kick after just five minutes of play for Venezia. Piacenza consequently saw its three-game winning streak come to an end.

## SALERMITANA 3 BOLOGNA 0

On the Amalfi Coast in Salerno, Di Vito scored in the 5th, 17th and 68th minutes for Salernitana in their 4 goal victory over Bologna who were knocked out of the UEFA Cup semifinals on Tuesday.

## SASSARI 2 PERUGIA 2

In Sardinia, Cagliari, Uruguay's Fabian O'Neill scored with three minutes left to salvage a draw for the Sardinians.

Inter Milan are close to signing a deal to bring right back Christian Panucci back to Italy from Real Madrid, Italian media reported on Saturday. ANSA news agency said Inter's transfer market manager

Mazzola met Real officials in the Spanish capital on Friday to discuss a five-year contract for the Italy and former AC Milan defender. Mazzola declined to either confirm or deny the report at an Inter training session on Saturday morning. Newspaper

said a deal could be reached within the next few days for a transfer fee of between 18 and 22 million lire.

Foolish Brazilian striker Edmundo acknowledged on Friday he was unhappy in Italy and wanted to leave Fiorentina to go home. "When I signed for Fiorentina I really

thought I'd be here for four, five, six years. At least the four years of my contract," he said after a training session. "But I'm a mental person and things are different here in Italy. That's why I want to return (to Brazil). I can't play when I'm here in Italy and my mind is in Brazil," he said. Edmundo joined Fiorentina in the close season but things turned sour in February when he abandoned Fiorentina to celebrate carnival in Rio de Janeiro at a crucial stage of the season when Batistuta was injured. He has reportedly fallen out with the Argentine, with other team mates and with coach Giovanni Trapattoni, who publicly slammed him at a recent training session and told him to grow up or go home. And who could disagree with that?



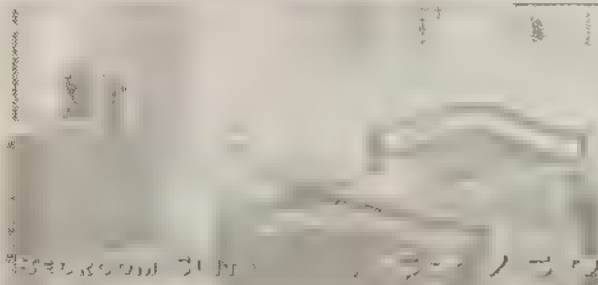
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# EUROPE

## EUROPE DOMINATES FIFA RANKING LIST

**G**ermany moved up to number three and England back into the top 10 of the FIFA world rankings released on Wednesday.

Brazil and World Cup champions France continue to top the standings.

Biggest movers were Ukraine who shot up 13 places from 36 to 22.

FIFA rankings (ranking, last month's ranking, points)

(1) Brazil 817 points

(2) France 786

Italy 746

(7) Czech Republic 747

(8) Croatia 734

(9) Argentina 732

(9) Spain 720

Ireland

qual. (10) Romania 700

(13) Norway

(15) (17) Portugal

(16) (15) Yugoslavia 650

(17) (15) Denmark 636

18. (

(22) Paraguay 609

(20) Chile 605

(35) Ukraine 604

(24) (23) U.S. 600

(25) (22) Belgium 599

(28) (25) Slovakia 598

(27) (24) South Africa 596

Scotland 592

(29) Tunisia 591

(30) equal. (28) Colombia 583

## YOUR'E JUST A BUNCH OF KIDS!

Valencia coach Claudio Ranieri accused two of his players of behaving like children. Ranieri had been forced to intervene in a public battle between his Spanish international goalkeeper Santiago Canizares and Yugoslav defender Miroslav Djukic.

Both had publically accused each other for being at fault on one of Raul Gonzalez's goals in Real Madrid's 3-1 defeat of Valencia on Sunday.

"This is the sort of thing that goes on between children, not men," Ranieri added.

The pair almost came to blows on the pitch and the row continued with various comments to Spanish journalists in the days after the match.

There has been no love lost between the two for several months.

Canizares had also blamed Djukic for additional defensive errors which have led to three other goals.

"His attitude makes me so angry," Djukic retorted. "I was not laughing when he let in a bad goal against Extremadura."

Following his coach's prompting, Canizares apologized to his teammates.

"I'll do my best to mend things," the goalkeeper said.

However, Djukic has yet to accept the olive branch.

Ranieri said that he had not fined either player so far.

"The best thing they can do is get themselves together and win against Celta on Sunday," Ranieri added.

Valencia are fourth in the 20-team Spanish first division and are in contention for a place in next season's Champions' League.

Angry Roma chiefs are ready to report Chelsea to UEFA for holding "underhand" talks with their £5million-rated striker Marco Delvecchio.

Roma president Francesco Sensi blew a fuse after Delvecchio claimed he had had secret talks with Chelsea boss Gianluca Vialli about a summer move.

Sensi said: "If they have held underhand talks then we will report them. Delvecchio is under contract with us until the year 2002 and is not for sale."

## UEFA BRAWL: THE INQUEST CONTINUES

**M**arseille midfielder Peter Luccin was the player making the allegations of racism after one of the ugliest nights in UEFA history, post UEFA Cup semi between Bologna and Marseille.

Marseille went through on the away goals rule after a highly disputed late penalty from Laurent Blanc earned them a 1-1 draw after the first leg finished 0-0.

Luccin said: "They (Bologna players) did not stop making racist remarks to three or four Marseille players during the match."

"It started during the match and they started again, even worse, as we headed towards the dressing room. At that moment, they jumped on us, pushed us and tried to hit us."

"We had to defend ourselves," said Luccin, one of three Marseille players suspended from the final.

Police took several minutes to quell the trouble with at least one tear gas round being fired.

UEFA have not imposed a punishment yet but will study reports into the incident before acting.

Blanc's penalty came after Bologna keeper Francesco Antonioli was ruled by German referee Markus Merk to have impeded Florian Maurice although it looked as though the French striker dived to win the decision.

UEFA will not resort to any snap punishment after a on-field brawl marred Tuesday night's UEFA Cup semifinal between Bologna and Olympique Marseille in Italy.

After a goal-less first leg in France, Bologna was leading 1-0 when Marseille was awarded a controversial penalty four minutes from time.

Bologna goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli pulled down striker Florian Maurice in the box just as Bologna appeared to be on the brink of its first-ever European final.

Marseille captain Laurent Blanc kept his nerve to score from a re-taken spot-kick to send the French team through to the final against Parma in Moscow on May 12 on away goals.

Bologna's Giancarlo Marocchi was dismissed two minutes later for a crude challenge on striker Aboubacar Camara, which sparked unprecedented scenes on the touchline when the final whistle sounded.

The French players taunted the home crowd on their way to the dressing room and a Bologna player aimed a punch at an opponent as other players joined in the fracas.

But the European football governing body will wait until it has received reports from officials before considering recriminations against both clubs.

"It will follow the normal procedure," a UEFA spokesman said.

"We are waiting for reports from the observer, delegates and the referee. On those reports, the disciplinary commission will make their decision."

"It is difficult to speculate on the punishment without the reports. We need to dissect the reports before we can make any decision."

"The committee will meet on April 29 when they will deal with all the cases."

There was further bad news for former Middlesbrough striker Fabrizio Ravanelli after the game. His booking was his second of the competition and the 'White Feather' will now miss the final.

Bundesliga club Hamburg is \$4.7-million in debt, the club's secretary general Werner Hackmann revealed Wednesday.

However, Hackmann denied rumors of a severe financial crisis at the club saying the club's debts were caused by the construction of a new stadium.

Meanwhile Dortmund have said that they have reached a lucrative 10-year deal with marketing company Ufa Sports which will inject 50 million marks into the club.

In a bid to threaten Bayern Munich's supremacy,



Dortmund, European champions two years ago but currently sixth in the Bundesliga standings, have already spent about \$16 million on new players for next season, including VfB Stuttgart striker Fredi Bobic and Paris St Germain defender Christian Woerns.

Real Madrid defender Roberto Carlos is in a contract dispute with the club despite denials from his agent.

Sports daily Marca reported on Wednesday that the Brazilian World Cup player and his agent dis-

agreed with the club over his contract's buy-out clause.

Roberto Carlos and his agent believe the buy-out figure is only \$15 million while club president Lorenzo Sanz insists it is \$100 million, the newspaper said.

Several Italian sides, including Inter Milan, are believed to be interested in signing the Brazilian, who still has another year to go with his Real Madrid contract.



# EUROPE

## EURO LEAGUES HIGHLIGHTS

Valencia and Celta Vigo played out an exciting 2-2 draw which probably put paid to both their title hopes in Spain.

Celta, who were being comfortably held at 1-1 by 10-man Valencia, looked to have taken the points two minutes into injury time with a wonderful strike from Valery Karpin.

But seconds later a 30-metre free kick from Francisco Farinos wrong-footed Celta keeper Richard Dutruel to earn his side a point — and cede further ground to Spain's big two.

The result leaves Barcelona eight points clear at the top, with Sunday's late game against Atletico Madrid in hand.

Valencia dominated during the early stages as they looked to put last weekend's 3-1 defeat at Real Madrid behind them.

They made the breakthrough on 10 minutes as Goran Vlaovic, racing through on the left to pick up a long pass from midfield, flicked the ball neatly past Richard Dutruel.

Jocelyn Angloma and Francisco Farinos then wasted clear chances to put the home side further ahead before Celta came back.

A strong run from Karpin was checked on the edge of the area but the Valencia defence failed to clear completely, giving Vladimir Gudely space to head the ball through to Juan Sanchez.

The in-form striker, left unmarked, slotted calmly past Santiago Canizares for his 13th goal of the campaign.

Celta had much the better of the second half but clearly missed the creative influence of injured midfielder Haim Revivo as they struggled to make headway even after the 78th minute sending-off of Jocelyn Angloma.

But they finally made the breakthrough in the 92nd minute — only to suffer the heartbreak of Valencia's last gasp comeback.

Playmaker Dariusz Woz scored twice as Hertha Berlin crushed VfL Bochum 4-1 on Saturday and moved to third in the German first division.

Woz set Hertha on their way to a 3-0 lead by the 37th minute by scoring from 20 metres in the 11th minute.

Dutch defender Hendrik Herzog headed the second after 18 minutes and midfielder Michael Hartmann struck the third.

South African striker Delron Buckley pulled a goal back in the 71st minute but Woz sealed Bochum's fate with his second nine minutes from time.

The Berlin club, virtually certain of playing in Europe next season, joined champions Kaiserslautern on 48 points and captured third place on goal difference.

Hertha coach Jurgen Roeder said: "I'm happy for Dariusz Woz who has had quite a bit of criticism lately. He gave just the right answer."

Kaiserslautern, far short of the form which helped them to the title last season, went down 2-0 at home to SC Freiburg, their fourth defeat in five games.

Midfielder Marco Weisshaupt put the visitors ahead from close range in the 37th minute. A blunder by

defender Michael Schjoenberg enabled Tunisian playmaker Zoubaier Baya to score Freiburg's second one minute from time.

"We made stupid mistakes again and this defeat means we have practically lost all chance of finishing second and qualifying directly for the Champions' League," said Kaiserslautern coach Otto Rehagel.

"If we want to play in Europe we have to raise the level of our game."

Hertha and Kaiserslautern are nine points behind second-placed Bayer Leverkusen who closed the gap on leaders Bayern Munich to seven points with a 1-0 win at VfB Stuttgart on Friday.

Bottom club Borussia Moenchengladbach managed only their fourth league win of the season — a 5-2 demolition of VfL Wolfsburg. Swede Jorgen Pettersson scored twice.

Genk overcame little resistance at Germinal Ekeren on Saturday, winning 2-0 and extending their lead at the top of the first division to five points.

Ekeren played second fiddle throughout a strangely lacklustre affair, with Genk taking maximum points through second half strikes by midfielder Marc Hendrickx and Croatian Besnik Hasi.

Anderlecht dropped one place to fourth despite a comfortable 3-0 win over bottom club Ostend, who are now eight points adrift of Lommel who, in turn, kept alive their survival hopes with a surprise 3-0 score against Standard Liege.

Excelsior Mouscron edged up to third with a late winner against Beveren, while Lokeren thrashed Eendracht Aalst 6-2, an emphatic scoreline which included a late 19-minute hat-trick by Jan Koeller, taking the league leading marksman's tally for the season to 22.

RC Lens, who are not giving away their French title without a fight, crushed possible heirs Olympique Marseille 4-0 on Saturday.

Marseille clung to their one-point lead at the top of the standings only because second-placed Girondins Bordeaux also lost, 2-0 away to bottom club Sochaux.

French international Tony Vairelles put Lens in front just before the interval when Marseille goalkeeper Stephane Porato failed to hold a shot by midfielder Frederic Dehu and the winger nipped in to chip the ball into the net.

Vairelles and under-21 midfielder Daniel Moreira, with two goals, scored three more in the space of 11 minutes in the second half as Lens overran Marseille, who five days ago reached the UEFA Cup final.

It was Marseille's worst defeat of the season in all competitions and only the second time they have conceded four goals since their 5-4 home win over Montpellier in August.

In two meetings between the two sides at Lens' Felix Ballaert World Cup stadium this season, Lens have put seven goals past Marseille following their 3-1 French Cup second round victory in February.

Lens, who lost 1-0 in the league at the Velodrome in November, also eliminated Marseille from the League Cup on penalties following a 1-1 draw after extra time at



Cuen in the first round in January.

Marseille, who brought on France's Robert Pires after the interval, came close to equalising twice early in the second half.

But first Pires shot straight at goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz in the 47th minute, then five minutes later striker Titu Camara hit the bar with a fine drive from the edge of the box.

In the 67th, Moreira increased Lens's lead when he turned a cross from the right from Vairelles past the diving Porato.

Three minutes later Vairelles rose to head home a free kick from the right by striker Philippe Brunel.

Moreira finished Marseille off with his second in the 78th.

Bordeaux, who have now dropped five points in successive games against sides in the relegation zone after a 0-0 draw at home to Lorient, fell behind to a Sebastien Dallet goal in the 27th minute.

Sochaux, who had not won in their previous 14 league games, increased their lead in the 75th with striker Bernard Bouger's ninth goal of the season.

Their former Sporting Lisbon midfielder Didier Lang

was sent off in the final minute for a tackle from behind on Bordeaux's French international striker Sylvain Wiltord.

"Up to now, we had good matches but didn't manage to win," Sochaux coach Philippe Anziani said. "We always lacked that little extra we had tonight."

Bordeaux coach Elie Baup said: "All the teams are desperate for points, all the teams are aware that they must surpass themselves... and we must, too."

Monaco also have 50 points after snatching a 1-1 draw at home to Bastia with an injury-time equaliser, a superb volley inside the post by midfielder Sylvain Legwinski.

The Corsicans led from the eighth minute with Frederic Nee's 10th league goal.

Monaco coach Claude Puel, who has just signed for three years, said: "It was a very bad result. I didn't see anything good. The team's losing its conviction and concentration."

"I'm going to ask the squad to react fast for the next match against Bordeaux."

## SPANISH DELIGHT AS JAPAN CRUMBLES

Spain showed Asia still has a long way to go before it can call itself a soccer power, by beating Japan in the Nigeria 99 final 4-0.

In a game that will help the country shed its underachiever image, Spain dominated the entire 90 minutes with some of the most entertaining soccer of the three-week tournament.

The victory avenged somewhat Spain's 1-0 loss to Brazil in the 1985 final and the pair of goals for Pablo gave him a share of the tournament scoring crown with Mali's Mahamadou Diassa with five goals.

As it had been through the U20 World Cup, Spain exploded at the start and within four minutes had taken the lead.

Jose Barker powered a free kick low past an eight-man wall that left Japanese keeper Yuta Minami stunned.

Six minutes later, Minami had to finger a drive by Spanish midfielder Xavi Hernandez from the edge of the box just over the bar. But in the 14th minute, Xavi sent a superb lob from

midfield to centerforward Pablo, who drew Minami off his line and then rolled the ball low into the far right corner.

Japan, playing its first FIFA final and missing Japanese national team regular and playmaker Shinji Ono because of accumulated cautions, spent most of the first half chasing the Spaniards, who were cheered on wildly by an estimated 20,000 in the half-filled National Stadium.

The early evening game was attended FIFA President Sepp Blatter, technical advisor Michel Platini as well as soccer legends Franz Beckenbauer and Bobby Charlton.

The Asian side made its only first-half attack in the 25th minute when Naohiro Takahara ran down the left wing, wove past defender Pablo Coira into the area but fired into the side netting.

In the 29th minute Minami had to punch wide another attempt, this time a header from 7 metres by Pablo.

The centerforward from Spanish second-

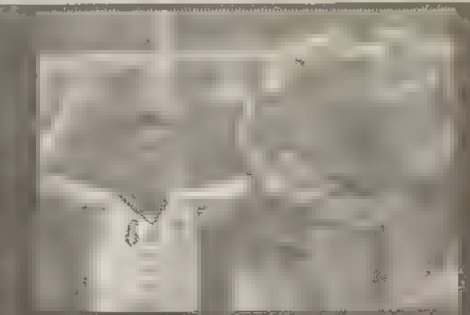
division club Numancia tallied his second from 14 meters in the 32nd when he picked up an attempted clearance by Minami following an intensive Spanish attack.

Minami thwarted Pablo in the 37th minute after a dazzling footwork display by Gabriel Garcia de la Torre, but Gabri converted in the second half, drilling a ball from just outside the goal area to finish a three-man move with Fernando Varela and Pablo.

Yasuhiko Endo came closest to scoring for Japan in the 65th minute when his shot from 8 meters was cleared off the line by a Spanish defender.

In the 70th minute, Endo had only Spanish keeper Daniel Aranzubia to beat from six yards but blasted the ball over the goal.

Spain: Daniel Aranzubia, Pablo Coira, David Bermudez, Francisco Jusue, Pablo Orbaiz, Carlos Marchena, Gabri Garcia de la Torre (Gonzalo Coles, 71st minute), Xavi Hernandez, Pablo Gonzalez, Fernando Varela (Ruben Suarez, 62nd), Jose Javier Barker (David



Spain celebrates a great win at Nigeria 99.

Aganzo, 79th).

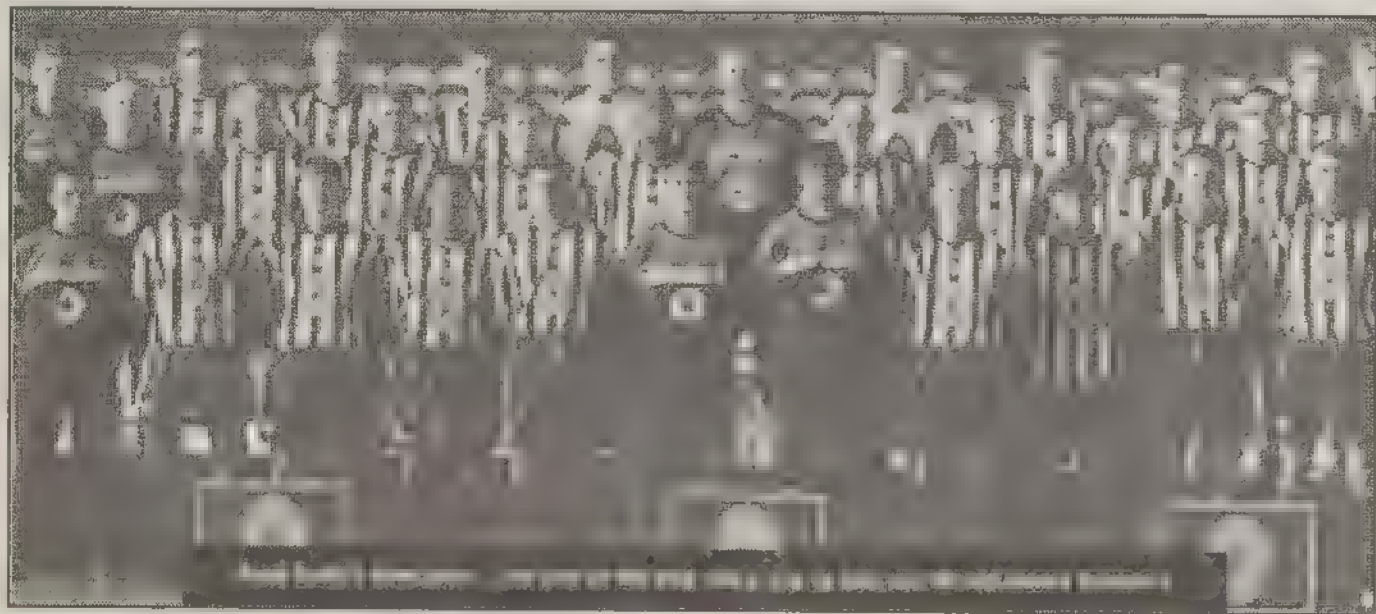
Japan: Yuta Minami, Kazuki Teshima, Shigeki Tsujimoto, Tomoyuki Sakai, Mitsuo Ogasawara, Naohiro Takahara (Ryuji Bando, 62nd), Masashi Motoyama, Yasuhiko Endo, Hideyuki Uchi (Junichi Inamoto, 46th), Koji Nakata, Yuichiro Nagai (Yasunori Takada, 69th).

Referee: Angel Oswaldo Sanchez, Argentina.



UK

# NO BIG MONEY FOR RUUD AS SALE FALLS THROUGH



**R**uud Gullit's plans to spend big in the off-season were dealt a blow with the news that a bid for the club by a large US Cable company, NTL, has fallen through, potentially depriving him of cash to strengthen his wannabe side.

The American-based cable company had already bought a 6.3 per cent in the club and were thought to be on the brink of a takeover. But, following the failure of BSkyB's bid to buy out Manchester United, NTL have pulled the plug altogether.

That means that Gullit, who could have reckoned on a transfer kitty of around £60m over the next two seasons, will have to have a major rethink when it comes to splashing out on new players.

The Newcastle-NTL takeover had been referred to the Competition Commission by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Stephen Byers.

But the decision of the cable company not to wait for an answer has left the Geordies high and dry and will cost director Douglas Hall a cool

£90m.

That was the figure the controversial deputy chairman would have received had the planned takeover gone ahead.

Hall was prepared to sell his remaining 50.8 per cent of shares in a couple of months' time.

NTL already have a foothold at Middlesbrough, where they run the cable channel Boro TV. And it's possible that they may wish to step up their interests on Teesside.

A spokesman for stockbrokers Wise Speke said: "The big question now is whether Gullit will be told the same as Alex Ferguson - that he can't have as much money as he thought this summer."

**H**earts has announced plans to diversify into Rugby League as 'Scottish Bravehearts'. Chief executive Chris Robinson confirmed that the move, under consideration for six months, could become reality by spring next year.

The JJB Super League will increase its number of member teams from 14 to 16 and Robinson said: "There's a strong possibility that one club will be Scottish so why not Scottish Bravehearts?"

"We have all the infrastructure for marketing and finance in place and are looking to add value to our enterprise."

Hearts' interest came to light in an announcement from the Super League that, because of an athletics event on August 1, Gateshead Thunder had switched a home match with Wigan to Tynecastle.

The move followed last year's successful roadshow at venues throughout the UK - including the Hearts ground, where nearly 7000 fans watched Bradford Bulls play London Broncos.

Maurice Lindsay, Super League managing director, said: "We're delighted to return to Tynecastle. It's a superb stadium. Hearts are very enthusiastic about the project."

Rugby League offers the attraction of being played largely in the summer and Robinson added: "It also has the guarantee of a Sky TV contract and a wage-capping system."

**F**renchman Olivier Dacourt, who has been booked 15 times and sent off once in his first season with Everton in the English premier league, was fined 2,500 pounds for his poor disciplinary record.

The English F.A., who imposed the penalty, had previously fined him 1,000 pounds and banned him for two matches in March when he reached 11 bookings.

His one dismissal came in September against Leeds United.

But Dacourt, who joined Everton for 4.0 million pounds (\$6.43 million) from Strasbourg at the start of the season, has been cleared to play in Everton's last four matches as they attempt to beat the drop to the first division.

**D**anny Mills and Mark Kinsella are on their way out if Charlton are relegated back to the First Division.

Blackburn want Irish midfielder Kinsella while West Ham have first option on England U21 full-back Mills.

Monday's defeat by Tottenham pushed open the relegation door and boss Alan Curbishley said: "Now people might look at one or two of our players and be quite interested."

"But we're under no pressure to sell. I'd like to think we can keep them."

**R**emember Paul Alcock? The ref who was involved in a bit of pushy shove with firebrand Paolo Di Canio, has not been forgotten by the Sheff Wed fans.

The whistler returned to Hillsborough for the first time since that incident and was booed constantly, particularly as he gave a soft penalty against the home team.

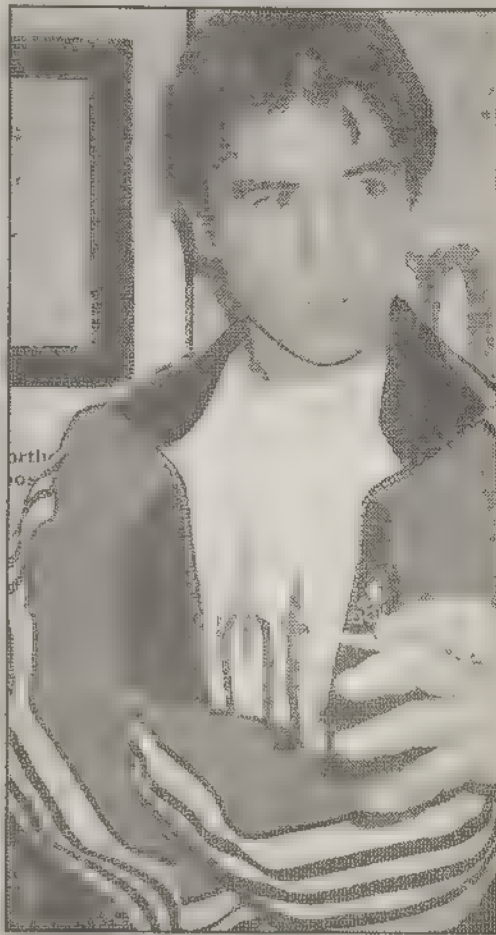
To rub salt into the wounds, Paolo Di Canio's little Italian mate, Benito Carbone, got a yellow.

Wednesday boss Danny Wilson did his best pre-match to hose things down by saying that his team has no axe to grind, but this did not stop the fans venting their pent up anger.

Wednesday were also embroiled in the issue of their players pulling out of tackles in order to win the Fair Play award.

Wilson claimed his players were hurt by this allegation.

## KEWELL DEAL SET TO BE THRASHED OUT



**K**ing Harry is ready to speak and he wants to talk about the realities. He wants to sign, but he also wants what he feels he is worth.

The 20-year-old Aussie striker is one of the six nominations for the PFA young player of the year after an outstanding season.

Solicitor Michael Kennedy, who handles Kewell's affairs, said: "I have talked to Harry and he has made it clear that he is willing to sign a new contract."

"He is a fantastic young player and it's important for Leeds that they do everything in their powers to keep him."

**S**underland boss Peter Reid has targeted West Ham's Steve Lomas and Blackburn's Garry Flitcroft as potential summer signings for the power club from the North.

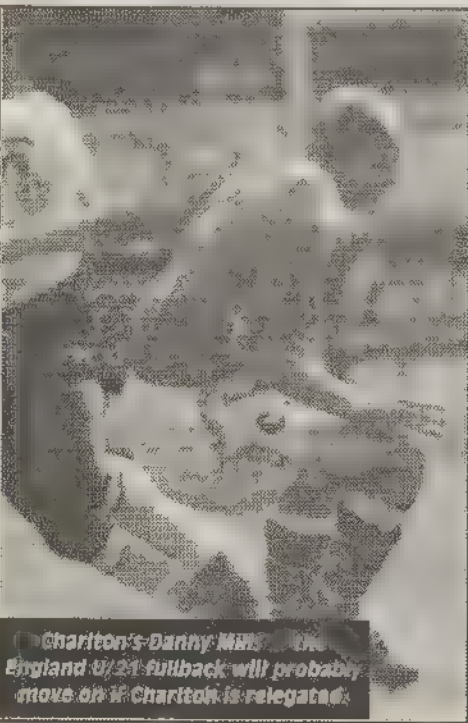
The manager of the newly-crowned Division One champions knows both £5million-rated midfield men from when they played for him at Manchester City.

Reid has around £15m at his disposal for rebuilding, although he insists he is looking to add to his slick squad rather than tear it apart and start again.

"There are no quick fixes," said the Sunderland boss. "The money I have to spend is the fans' money and it's up to me to spend it wisely. If I pay something like £6m for a player and mess up, then it's a bad signing." Astute Reid has built his Sunderland squad on sound judgement and astute buying. Goal-mad striker Kevin Phillips cost him a mere £600,000 from Watford two seasons ago, and has proved such a huge success that his manager admitted: "If I'd paid £7m for Kevin, people would have said he'd been a good buy. But then there's Allan Johnston, Chris Makin and Jody Craddock. They were all value for money signings."

He concluded his £2m swoop for Danish midfielder man Carsten Fredgaard and vowed then: "There's more to follow." Reid explained "If someone becomes available for £4m and I think he would improve my team, then I'll do it."

"People talk about buying world class players and I can understand that. But if I can get value for money for good players and then turn them into better players, I don't see what's wrong with that."



Charlton's Danny Mills, the England U21 fullback, will probably move on if Charlton is relegated.



# UK WITH CRAZY CRAIG WILSON



**T**he Beckham-Adams' PR machine has been working overtime. This month the happy young couple have granted 'exclusives' to three UK magazines! And in case you're thinking there's something wrong with their arithmetic, think again. OK paid them \$2.5 million for their bite of the cherry.

Because we knew you'd be too embarrassed, and all in the line of duty, we sent young Zbigniew out to purchase said swank journals - all of which contain illuminating insights into the lives of David and Posh. Ziggy tells us he wore dark glasses and a trench coat. He didn't want

his mates to see him buying magazines where women kept their clothes on.

And was it worth it? Oh yes. Shall we run you through the highlights?

'Now' magazine ask David how he feels about becoming a father, and it seems that Daddy Dave is doing rather a good job. "Being a father is just how I expected. I knew I'd enjoy it" he says, and goes on to discuss feeding, discipline and changing dirty nappies.

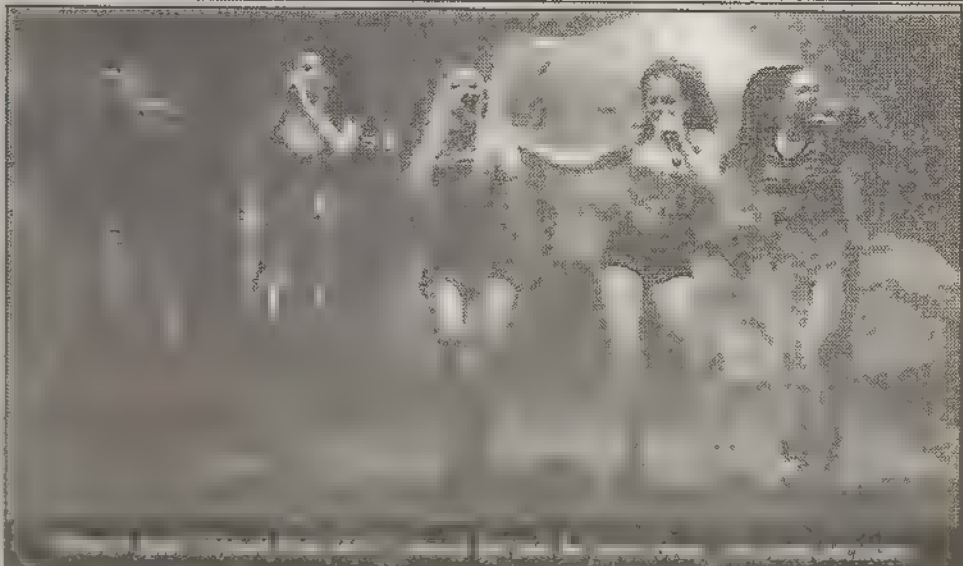
The article divulges that the Beckham-Adamses are worth about \$60 million between them, but will not be bringing a nanny in. Perhaps the money will be some comfort when fans start singing "Is the baby really yours?" at away games, as the features reveals they do.

OK are on a different mission - to peer through the curtains into the 'luxurious pent-house' that is Chez Beckham.

The streets nearby are 'winding and tree-lined, leading you to a electric gate through which a driveway takes you up to 'their 100 year-old apartment block'.

There's a huge portrait of the couple by the door, and the unit is done out in bleached wood and whitewash. Photos of the famous duo line the walls. A four foot tall carved elephant dominates the living room, and the kitchen features a fake leopard-skin rug.

A flicker with chunky communion candles, the apartment no doubt reflects Victoria's ethereal side. For, asked whether Brooklyn will be chris-



tened, Posh replies 'Yes, although we're not particularly religious'. Perhaps we're more spiritual than religious'. Yes Victoria. Perhaps you are and perhaps you're not.

You lot are probably not used to flicking through the pages of Vogue, but the Crazy Crew know what goes on within its fashionable pages.

We're normally found in the society section of posh magazines, dangling from the arm of a Paddington debutante, hanging around at gallery openings, and splashing out big time on abstract artwork by the latest turps-soaked boy wonder to have crawled from the garrets of Double Bay. Vogue sent one of its top pencils to interview Dave and Vicks, and the piece features arty snaps by swank society snapper Juergen Teller - one of which has Vicky chomping on David's index finger, and another of them laying on the floor of a hotel laundry room. Gadzooks?!

For the boys in the

office, this was the interview that laid it all bare. Not over-impressed with the nouveau-riche young lovers ("Two of the most joyously conspicuous consumers in the Western world"), the magazine divulges that Posh bought Becks a custom-built silver Ferrari Maranello for Christmas.

"It's difficult not to feel a wave of affection at the thought of them carefully laying out all the tabloids every morning to see which ones their pictures are in and who is more famous", says Vogue, and the article goes on to discuss how they ditched a Savile Row tailor when he bragged on TV of knocking up a bit of schmutter for Dave, how he went mad when she hung up a Christmas card from a newspaper he'd fallen out with, and how their evening at expensive London eatery "The Ivy" was ruined when the staff failed to recognise them.

David lacks confidence in his looks, says his missus. "I always tell him he looks lovely", says Victoria reassuringly, though Vogue imagine him 'sitting in his dressing room at home, head bowed and hands woven despairingly into blond highlights, wondering which of the hundreds of brand-new outfits staring at him from the rail he should put on in the morning'.

Geez kiddoes - it's another world. It really is.



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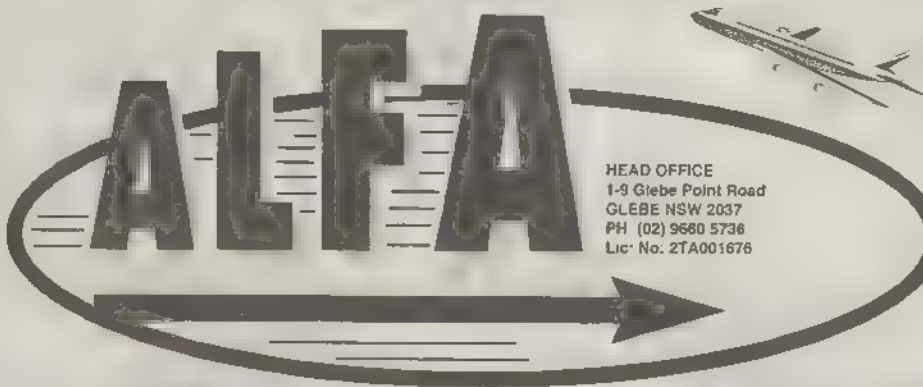
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## SUPPORTERS' CLUBS

Far from home? Homesick without your home team? Soccer Weekly keeps you up to date with your Australian supporters clubs

**Club:** Manchester United Supporters Club of NSW

**Contact:** Graham Shakespeare

**Address:** PO Box 693, Sutherland, NSW 1499 (02 9589 2578)



"The club was set up six years ago, by Fred and Ann Pollit, fanatical fans from Manchester who are now heading back there. Fred drives a red Mini Minor with a MAN UTD rego plate. Alex Ferguson nicknamed him 'Mr. Bean'.

"We've roughly 400 members in NSW and we're growing rapidly. Membership is \$35 a year, but for that they get a t-shirt, and a monthly newsletter. It's a combination of articles from English newspapers, and also news from fans in NSW, listing upcoming events etc.

"Several years ago we did an official tour of Old Trafford and took in some games. But this is a big year for us. On FA Cup night we're watching the game at the St. George Leagues Club. It's a fantastic venue for us, they've been very supportive. We've booked the auditorium, and will get around a thousand people there. Beforehand there's a function, with a buffet and entertainment. Radio station 2KY will be there - broadcasting live.

"We're doing something similar for the European Cup, and everyone is welcome. The more people the better the atmosphere. United are coming out here in July, and that will be huge. The club is keen for Man United fans to sit together, make a lot of noise and create some atmosphere. We'll hopefully book a block of 1000 tickets.

"We are officially sanctioned by Manchester United, and Sir Bobby Charlton is our patron. He's patron of only one or two supporters clubs in the world.

Email Crazy Craig at [magic sponge@hotmail.com](mailto:magic sponge@hotmail.com)



Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

## UK PRESS GOES CRAZY

### FERGIE'S NIGHT OF GLORY

**H**EROES. That is what the Daily Mirror called the Man Utd lads after the Juve semi second leg in Turin ... 'Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole sent Manchester United marching gloriously into their first European Cup Final for 31 year,' said the paper.

'Alex Ferguson's dynamic strike duo delivered the goods when it really mattered to set up a final showdown with Bayern Munich in the Nou Camp stadium on May 26.

'United looked dead and buried after Filippo Inzaghi gave the Italians a 2-0 lead inside the first 10 minutes.

'But Ferguson's heroes began their sensational fight-back in the 24th minute when Captain Fantastic Roy Keane glanced in a David Beckham corner to set this clash alight.

'Just 10 minutes later, Yorke headed home from a Cole cross to put United on course for the final. And Cole made sure of it with the third six minutes from time.

'Only one English side had previously won in this Italian city - Arsenal back in 1980 when Paul Vaessen got the winner.

**M**anchester online was equally gobsmacked by the game, INCREDIBLE! Unstoppable Reds rewrite history to keep treble in their sights' was their lead story.

'The might of Juventus and Arsenal have been flattened in a truly remarkable and awesome eight days as the Reds' machine powers towards the incredible treble.

Woe betide anything that gets in the way of Alex Ferguson's unquenchable heroes as they thirst for silverware.

'Who can put the brakes on United now?

'When you've given a two-goal start to European super power Juventus in Turin and still thrashed Zidane and Co this phenomenal outfit has to be rated as unstoppable. Bayern Munich in the Champions' League, Arsenal and Chelsea in the Premiership title race and Newcastle in the FA Cup must be quaking in their boots



Paul Scholes ... will miss the Final.

as they steel themselves for the prospect of halting United's extraordinary pursuit of the clean sweep.

'The generous ovation afforded United in the Stadio delle Alpi by those Italians who could stomach staying to the final whistle recognised that the Kings of Europe baton was about to be transferred to Old Trafford.'

**T**he Independent, staying less excited, focussed on Roy Keane, leading with the headline: 'Keane's sacrifice ensures Glory'. Of course, without Keane can United claim the ultimate prize?

## TICKET ROW

### FOR SPANISH FINAL

**I**t seems like ticketing for major footballing events just can't take a trick. Someone is always unhappy. It's been reported that United will get only 25,000 tickets for the European Champions' League final in Barcelona.

This was the shock for Reds fans after a night of joy and celebration in Turin after the magnificent victory over Juventus.

UEFA have put a seats-only crowd limit of between 90,000 and 95,000 on United's date next month with Bayern Munich, although standing areas take the capacity of the Nou Camp stadium to 120,000.

Each club is likely to be allocated 25,000 tickets, although UEFA will meet tomorrow to finalise arrangements.

Lee Hodgkiss, spokesman for the Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association, said it will mean thousands of fans travelling without tickets and a black market pushing prices to astronomical levels.

Manchester United supporters have waited 31 years for a European Cup final since the historic victory of Sir Matt Busby's team over Benfica in 1968.

Hodgkiss said an allocation of 50,000 for each of the finalists would be more realistic.

'This is the game every supporter will want to go to,' he said. 'Most have waited a lifetime for a match like this. An allocation like this is a bit of a joke.'

United spokesman Ken Ramsden said the club would approach UEFA to try to get the highest ticket allocation possible.

'We only sold 4,000 of our 6,000 allocation for the semi-final but I suspect there will be a large number wanting to go to the final,' he said.

'Both ourselves and Bayern Munich will be discussing the situation with UEFA and I am sure they will do the best they can for us.'

Wealthy United will bank at least £4m in prize money for their final appearance, a figure that will be topped up by £1m if they defeat Bayern Munich.

But that is only the tip of the iceberg, with both the Reds and the Germans on a percentage of gate receipts. Along with money from television rights, this will take United's earnings to £10m.

Steven Lloyd from the European Football Unit of accountants KPMG said: 'United could realistically expect to sell 70,000 replica shirts, which is probably worth £2m, and other merchandise could top that up by another £1m or so.'

United's win has also produced a feel-good factor throughout the region.

Manchester city council leader Richard Leese, a City fan, said: 'United's success is important for jobs and investment in Manchester and throughout the north west. They are a fantastic advert for our great city.'



**C**oventry boss Gordon Strachan was hit by a double disciplinary blow during midweek. First, Strachan found himself fined £1,000 plus costs following the touchline fracas at Chelsea in January, when referee Jeff Winter ordered him from the dugout.

And then the feisty Scot discovered the FA had slapped a one-match ban on star striker Noel Whelan for collecting 11 yellow cards.

Just wasn't his week.

## WHILE REDS PARTY, BLUES LOSE

**C**helsea still have a long way to go before they can claim to be as big, or as successful as Man Utd. The London side lost the Euro Cup winners Cup bout against Real Mallorca 1-0. Where United had dredged up courage from deep within their collective soul to silence the Stadio Delle Alpi crowd, Gianluca Vialli's side failed to bounce back after conceding an early goal.

The night had promised to be the one where Chelsea re-established their credentials and Vialli won the first battle of the night before a ball had been kicked.

The Italian had lodged an official protest about the length of the grass on the Luis Sitjar Stadium pitch and UEFA had sided with the Stamford Bridge club, ordering the Spaniards to trim the surface by almost an inch.

It was an important concession, giving the Blues more chance of imposing their normal passing game on a Mallorca side who had demonstrated their defensive organisation in the first leg a fortnight ago.

As a police helicopter hovered over the fiercely-passionate fans inside the stadium, keeping a close watch on the 2,000 Chelsea supporters, while the players dodged two wooden stakes thrown on to the pitch during the warm-up, Vialli surprisingly left himself out of the team.

Instead Tore Andre Flo, who came off the bench to grab the equaliser in the first leg partnered Gianfranco Zola up front. Vialli was not even a substitute.

First Yugoslav midfielder Stankovic's left wing free-kick found Dani unmarked six yards out, with De Goey relieved to see his header glanced wide. Then when Vicente Engonga's long ball sent him streaking away through the middle, it needed a superb recovery tackle by Leboeuf to avert the danger.

Chelsea were making inroads of their own, and just how much Vialli missed Gustavo Poyet during his three-month injury absence was demon-

strated as the Uruguayan surged into the Mallorca box.

A left-foot volley, after Leboeuf flicked on Wise's corner, was only just wide and then Poyet was a fraction away from getting onto the end of Zola's cross.

But Chelsea's mood was deflated horribly when Mallorca claimed the lead. Stankovic's corner was only half-cleared by Roberto Di Matteo and when the Yugoslav returned into the near-post the Blues were caught napping.

Biagini was allowed a powerful and free header from barely six yards out, and although De Goey got a hand to the ball, he could not prevent it dropping over the line.

Poyet again came close to providing a goal as he controlled Graeme Le Saux's probing cross with his back to goal and then agilely hooked a shot which dropped just the wrong side of Carlos Roa's bar.

Flo almost connected with Zola's cross after the Sardinian wriggled into space, and then Wise latched on to Miquel Soler's weak clearance to try his luck from 22 yards, with Roa scrambling across as the ball flew past his right-hand post.

As in the first leg, Mallorca seemed content to drop back and catch Chelsea on the counter. If Di Matteo had been more alert when Poyet nodded down Wise's corner on 34 minutes they would have been made to pay.

Chelsea came even closer two minutes later. Zola somehow managed to twist and turn inside the crowded box to feed Di Matteo, but although his left-footer was well-struck, Roa was able to beat it away and drop on the ball as it rebounded off Zola.

That saved was matched at the other end almost instantly. De Goey's fists getting good distance after Biagini had sight of goal for a second time.

Then Wise's clever ball set Flo off in pursuit, but after tricking Soler to create room for a shot, the Norwegian tamely curled over the bar. Although



Zola ... could not pull a goal out of the hat for Chelsea.

if Marcelino had been able to direct Biagini's free-kick on target, Chelsea's cause might have been utterly lost.

Poyet, their best performer by far, attempted to test Argentina World Cup keeper Roa, shooting left-footed and then not quite able to find Flo after jumping highest in the box from Albert Ferrer's centre.

Di Matteo brought a terrific save out of Roa, when the keeper tipped his volley on to the bar.

**Real Mallorca (4-4-2):** Roa; Olazola, Marcelino, Siviero (Carreras, 46min), M Soler; Lauren, Engonga, Pannovic, Stankovic (Arpon, 80); Dani Biagini (F Soler, 68). Booked: Lauren, Pannovic, Olazola.

**Chelsea (4-4-2):** De Goey; Ferrer, Leboeuf, Desailly, Le Saux (Babayaro, 46); Petrescu (Morris, 78), Poyet, Di Matteo, Wise; Flo, Zola. Booked: Desailly.

Referee: Hellmut Krug (Ger)



Compiled and written by

Daryl Katz

UK

Premier League highlights

## WIMBLEDON V NEWCASTLE TOTTENHAM V WEST HAM

Newcastle United and Wimbledon cruised to a 1-1 draw at Selhurst Park on Saturday in an encounter between two sides with little to play for.

The goals were as soft as the challenges for much of the game with the Magpies having one eye firmly fixed on the FA Cup final against Manchester United next month.

Pride was on the line though, best exemplified by England captain Alan Shearer. He continually hassled the normally composed Kenny Cunningham and constantly rallied his team.

Inevitably it was Shearer who opened the scoring on 18 minutes. The goal owed as much to the pinpoint cross of Silvio Maric as it did to the typical Shearer finish as he rose high above the defence to meet the ball and power it past the helpless Neil Sullivan.

However, six minutes later Wimbledon were back on terms courtesy of record signing John Hartson, who celebrated the end of a goal drought as he tapped home after Ceri Hughes' bobbling 30-yard drive was spilled by Shay Given.

Both sides then seemed to settle for the point and for the remaining 66 minutes neither ventured much into foreign territory. Marcus Gayle may rue his bad miss with half an hour of the match gone.

With Given slipping on his line, all Gayle had to do was slide the ball into the back of the net. However he scuffed his shot and it rolled harmlessly wide.

At the other end, Dietmar Hamann forced a solid save from Sullivan as he shot on the turn from 25 yards but the applause from the crowd as the half-time whistle blew was half-hearted.

The Dons dominated after the restart, Newcastle already clearly having settled for the draw.

Opportunities were wasted at both ends with Jason Euell and Hartson firing wide and Andreas Andersson doing likewise for Newcastle.

In the end, the final whistle came as a relief.



Shearer is in great form for Newcastle ahead of the FA Cup Final against Man Utd.

West Ham United defeated Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 at White Hart Lane on Saturday in a fiercely contested London derby.

One might have been mistaken for thinking that there was more than just local pride at stake, given the intensity of the match.

Frank Lampard should have put West Ham ahead after only a minute but tried to go around Ian Walker's desperate challenge and the opportunity went begging.

Four minutes later, former Arsenal star Ian Wright, just back from three months off following a knee operation, provided a lesson in clinical finishing.

Eyal Berkovic split the Spurs defence with a visionary through ball, and although Walker charged off his line to kick it away from Trevor Sinclair it landed only as far as Wright who dispatched it into an empty net from 30 yards.

Tottenham looked sluggish initially, and only Darren Anderton managed a shot on goal, sending a long-range effort over the bar.

Berkovic pulled the strings in midfield for the Hammers, while an off-key David Ginola struggled to match him. It looked one of those afternoons for the Frenchman when he tumbled in the box just before half-

time after Ian Pearce's challenge, only for referee Uriah Rennie to book him for diving.

After Shaka Hislop produced a breathtaking save to deny Jose Dominguez a Tottenham equaliser in his first start for 15 months, it was Berkovic who appeared to sew up the points for West Ham in the 66th minute.

His delightfully-threaded through ball sent Marc Keller racing in behind the Tottenham defence to strike his drive past Walker's flailing left hand.

Tottenham, however, made this the signal for a fightback and Ginola redeemed all his previous poor form with a stunning strike from 20 yards which crashed into the top corner.

With 24 minutes left, Spurs looked set for a point at least as West Ham suddenly tired but Hislop, with smart saves from Sol Campbell and substitute Allan Nielsen, kept the Hammers afloat.

The visitors became desperate in the closing minutes, and saw John Moncur dismissed late in the game for a scything tackle on Mauricio Taricco.

It was too late for Spurs to take advantage of numerical superiority however, and Harry Redknapp's side held on to take the points.

## EVERTON V CHARLTON

Kevin Campbell grabbed his third brace in three matches as Everton took themselves to within touching distance of survival following a 4-1 defeat of Charlton Athletic at Goodison Park on Saturday.

Charlton, with three ex-Everton players in their ranks in Eddie Youds, Carl Tiler and Graham Stuart, tore at the Merseysiders from the start.

Tiler and Martin Pringle both produced dangerous headers inside the first five minutes, while Everton wasted a glorious chance after nine minutes.

Kevin Campbell found himself in the clear, but his attempted chip over Andy Petterson was tipped away by the exposed goalkeeper.

Jeffers almost embarrassed the Charlton goalkeeper when he charged down an attempted clearance, with the ball flying inches wide of the post.

That incident unsettled Charlton, particularly at the back, and they proceeded to gift Everton a priceless lead after 24 minutes.

Hutchison charged down a Stuart clearance and held off three half-hearted challenges as he ran into the box, his weak resulting shot squirming under the body of

Petterson.

Six minutes later Everton struck again. Campbell took a pass from Hutchison, again encountered defenders unwilling to tackle, and reacted first to a Richard Rufus block to fire home from an acute angle.

Charlton staged a spirited second-half comeback, plenty of ball into the box, but nothing in the way of clear-cut chances.

On the hour, Jeffers found himself in space on the left, and fired in a cross that might well have been cleared. Instead, Campbell found himself unmarked six yards out, and glanced a neat header into the corner of the net.

Charlton staged another flurry, with Youds, substitute Andy Hunt and Pringle all going close, but they were pulled apart again after 75 minutes.

Scot Gemmill fought his way out of defence and supplied Campbell, who again held up possession before releasing Jeffers to race clear and drill his shot into the bottom corner.

There was no way back after that, but still Charlton came forward. After 81 minutes, Stuart secured a consolation goal from the penalty spot after Unsworth fouled Pringle in the box.



Tottenham's Darren Anderton takes a ride on top of West Ham's Minto during their clash at White Hart Lane. West Ham defeated their London rivals 2-1.

## DERBY V SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton and Derby County battled to a goalless draw at Pride Park on Saturday in a match that saw Saints come close to the elusive away win which would have eased their relegation worries.

After a woeful opening period, the game improved after the break but still a goal would not come and both sides had to settle for a point.

In a match of little goalmouth action, Derby's best opportunities came through Darryl Powell and Dean Sturridge.

Midway through the second half, Powell sent a shot through a crowd of bodies but somehow goalkeeper Neil Moss managed to get his legs to the shot.

Sturridge then came off the bench and within three minutes he had twice tested Moss, the 23-year-old denying the striker brilliantly the second time.

Powell sent two low drives just past the post with Moss beaten and Kevin Harper headed off target, but neither side really deserved the victory, particularly after the woeful first half.

However, the most costly misses came from Latvian striker Marians Pahars, who failed to

take the two chances which would have given Southampton's survival hopes a massive boost.

First, he just failed to get his foot to a teasing 26th minute cross from James Beattie. Then, the 22-year-old forward struck a powerful 18-yard drive three minutes into the second half after being set up by Hassan Kachoul, but goalkeeper Mari Poom managed to make the save.

Those were the Saints' best chances to score just their seventh league goal away from The Dell this season, although Beattie's cross later struck the outside of the post after deflecting off a defender.

This was significant point gained by Dave Jones' side however, taking them level on points with Charlton and Blackburn, both losers on the day.

Southampton's are currently in their 21st consecutive season in English football's top division, and they have been fighting for survival in the latter stages of many of those seasons.

They now have just three matches left in which they must once again lift themselves if they are to avoid the prospect of Division One football next season.

## LEICESTER V COVENTRY

Coventry City will endure another week of anxiety after a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Leicester City at Filbert Street.

The Sky Blues have still not managed to scramble to premiership safety, but the victory wrapped up a seven-point week for Martin O'Neill's rejuvenated team.

Striker Emile Heskey, dogged by a back injury in recent weeks, looked back to his best and was a constant thorn in Coventry's side as the Foxes heaped on the pressure.

It was Heskey foraging down the right who created the first chance of the game but his cross was headed wide by Ian Marshall. Minutes later, Marshall sent a 12-yard shot narrowly wide, the cross again supplied by Heskey.

The big centre-forward then released Tony

Cottee with a perfect header, but the diminutive striker could only find the side netting.

Steve Guppy also proved a nuisance for Coventry, unleashing powerful shots in both halves, but just failing to find the target.

Marshall finally broke the deadlock in the final seconds of the first half.

Guppy delivered an accurate flag-kick from the Leicester left and Marshall rose unchallenged to power a header past Magnus Hedman.

Coventry showed more willingness to attack after the break, but the home team always seemed in control.

Substitute Trond Soltvedt came closest to equalising with a low drive which drifted across the face of goal and wide as Leicester secured full points.





Compiled and written by

Daryl Katz

UK

League Highlights

## VILLA V NOTTS FOREST

Nottingham Forest had their relegation confirmed on Saturday, falling 2-0 to Aston Villa in a dour match at Villa Park.

Forest never recovered from the close-season losses of defender Colin Cooper and striker Kevin Campbell, as well as the self-imposed absence of Dutchman Pierre van Hooijdonk, and the writing has been on the wall for some time now.

While the visitors did produce some fluent football, Villa goalkeeper Michael Oakes was hardly threatened and the home side cruised to victory and extended their unbeaten run to six games.

The pace of Julian Joachim always troubled Forest while Steve Stone showed that he is adapting to life at Villa and will surely be an asset next season.

The visitors started reasonably well, and Andy Johnson might have done better in the 23rd minute when he found himself unmarked eight yards out after Jesper Mattsson had stepped over a cross

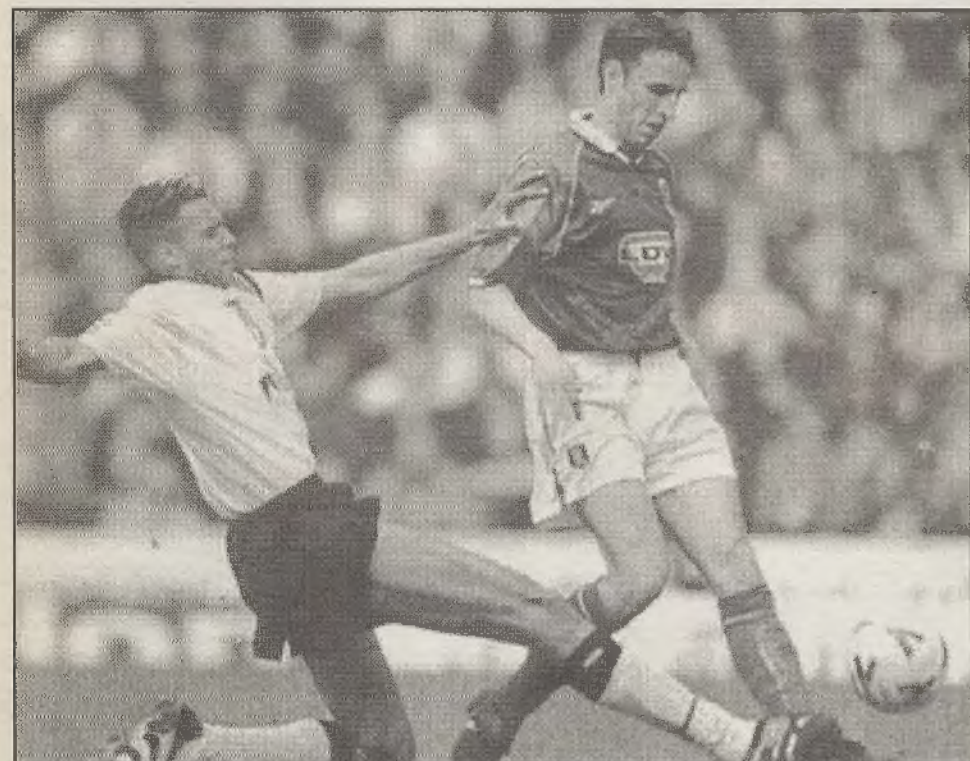
from Jon Olav Hjelde, but his shot flew high over the Villa bar.

After a poor opening thirty minutes, Villa finally injected some urgency into their game, and in first half stoppage time they finally broke the deadlock.

Alan Wright sent over a near-post free kick and Mark Draper's backward header took a slight deflection off a Forest defender before ending up in the far corner of the net.

Teenage defender Gareth Barry replaced the injured Dion Dublin at half-time, and within 12 minutes was celebrating his first goal in senior football. Stone curled in an inswinging cross and Barry stole in at the far post to bundle the ball over the line.

The game then meandered to its inevitable conclusion, with Forest seemingly resigned to their fate of Nationwide League football next season.



Dutch International, Pierre Van Hooijdonk against Aston Villa's Southgate. The subsequent loss for Forest meant that they were relegated back to the Nationwide Division after only one year in Premier League.

## BLACKBURN V LIVERPOOL

Blackburn Rovers crashed to a 3-1 home defeat at the hands of Liverpool on Saturday, and Brian Kidd must quickly find a way to end the slide or the 1995 premiership champions will find themselves in the Nationwide League next season.

The home side settled well initially and looked more menacing early on. However, they failed to create clear-cut goalscoring for strikers Ashley Ward and Kevin Gallacher, and were made to pay as they self-destructed around the half-hour mark.

The first signs of trouble came on 23 minutes. Steve McManaman and Karlheinz Riedle appeared to have misjudged each other's intentions, leaving the ball to be cleared by former team-mate Jason McAteer.

He touched the ball to Peacock who drove a back pass at John Filan leaving the Australian little chance to control. McManaman followed up to stun the home crowd by chasing the loose ball over the line to secure the lead.

Eight minutes later, Liverpool midfielder Jamie Redknapp found space 20 yards out to drive home a terrific strike with Filan left grasping for air to his left as the visitors doubled their advantage.

The victory was effectively sealed a minute

later. Norwegian international Oyvind Leonhardsen found room on the corner of the Rovers' penalty area, and calmly rolled the ball under Filan to make it 3-0.

Rovers are somewhat resilient though, and briefly threatened a comeback with a 56th minute strike from Ward which curled just wide.

Liverpool seemed to have relaxed a bit at this point, prompting an angry reaction from Gerard Houllier and Phil Thompson on the touchline.

In the 63rd minute, Damian Duff finally broke through for the home side with a drive from the edge of the area after finding a Liverpool clearance pushed into his path.

Ward should have brought Rovers further back into the game eight minutes later but struggled to adapt to the pace of Duff's pass across goal, allowing Steve Staunton to clear the danger.

Lee Carsley forced Brad Friedel down low to his right five minutes later with a point blank header before Staunton cleared a Jason Wilcox strike off the line.

Rovers pelted the Liverpool goal at the death but the Reds held firm to leave Rovers struggling for survival.

## M'BORO V ARSENAL

Arsenal produced an awesome display at the Riverside Stadium on Saturday, demolishing resurgent Middlesbrough 6-1, indicating that they are far from ready to surrender their premiership crown.

The visitors secured the lead as early as the third-minute following a foul by Steve Vickers on Nicolas Anelka. In the absence of Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp, his compatriot Marc Overmars stepped up to dispatch the resulting spot kick past Mark Schwarzer and give the champions a flying start.

The home side maintained their composure however, with their two strikers, Brian Deane and Hamilton Ricard, proving a handful for the Arsenal defence.

In midfield, Andy Townsend and the hard-working Robbie Mustoe kept Boro moving forward in search of an equaliser.

After 16 minutes, Mustoe saw his shot smothered and then a teasing run from Ricard forced a close range save from David Seaman. From the ensuing corner, Deane headed powerfully towards goal, but straight at Seaman who gathered comfortably.

Boro were in control at this point and it seemed a matter of time before the equaliser would arrive.

Despite being forced to absorb pressure, Arsenal still threatened on the counter-attack, and on the half-hour Overmars set up Anelka, who drew a fine save from Schwarzer with a 20-yard drive.

Ricard then almost set up Deane, but his penetrative through ball narrowly eluded his strike partner and allowed Seaman to claim. Ten minutes from the break, Deane controlled a nod-on from Ricard and teed himself up before hitting a 25-yard volley which Seaman could only tip over the bar.

Three minutes later came the incident that would change the match. Boro central defender Colin Cooper was injured in a collision, and with Gianluca Festa out injured, Bryan Robson had to resort to bringing on wing-back Vladimir Kinder.

Within a minute, as the home side battled to adjust their defensive formation, Arsenal took advantage and doubled their lead.

Patrick Vieira picked up the ball as a Boro attack broke down and released Anelka, who sprinted clear to slot the ball past Schwarzer.

Still Boro were not disheartened, and three minutes from the break a trademark volley from Dean Gordon following a corner forced a superb save from Seaman as he dived away to his left.

In first half stoppage time, Mustoe found himself clear of the Arsenal defence, but delayed his shot and allowed Seaman to close him down. His eventual effort curled just wide.

Within seconds, Arsenal had landed the killer blow as Anelka broke down the right and crossed for Nwankwo Kanu. The Nigerian capitalised on the continued confusion and hesitation among the Boro central defenders to cut inside and hammer the ball home.

That left Arsene Wenger's side three up at the break, albeit totally against the run of play.

With Boro seemingly still stunned by the events of the first half, Arsenal proceeded to take control of the game in the second period.

Five minutes after the break, Anelka set up Overmars, who checked inside to create space for a shot



Patrick Vieira and his teammates were in great form against Middlesbrough.

and then sent his effort just wide with the goal at his mercy.

Three minutes later, with Arsenal swarming forward, Lee Dixon sent a powerful shot over the bar from 18 yards.

Boro then let the visitors know they were still around, Ricard sending a 10-yard shot over the bar, but the home side found themselves taken apart twice more even before the hour.

First, Anelka raced away down the right before crossing low for Overmars, who deflected the ball into the path of Vieira. Totally unmarked just eight yards out, the French midfielder picked his spot and slotted the ball home.

With Arsenal rampant, they extended their lead to five within two minutes when Kanu met Dixon's right-wing cross with an outrageous reverse flick to find the far corner of the net.

If further evidence were required that this was simply not to be Boro's day, then it arrived on 72 minutes when Ricard's excellent 20-yard free kick finally beat Seaman only to come back off an upright.

Two minutes later Mustoe produced a driving run but fired his shot narrowly wide as Boro tried to prove they were not quite yet a spent force.

With 12 minutes remaining, Arsenal extended their lead still further with the result fast becoming a rout. Anelka created space for a shot 18 yards out and cut the ball back across Schwarzer for an emphatic finish.

Anelka almost secured his hat-trick two minutes later, denied only by an athletic headed clearance off the line from Steve Vickers.

Four minutes from time, and with the home support streaming out of the stadium, substitute Alun Armstrong managed a consolation goal for Boro when he rose to head past Seaman off the inside of the post.

The injury to Cooper undoubtedly proved the undoing of Robson's side in this match. Until that point they were in control, and following the substitution, Arsenal found time and space both through the centre and down the right flank.

However, that should not detract from a superb display of finishing prowess from the visiting side, who will now take some stopping as they attempt to haul in Manchester United in the quest for domestic supremacy.



Overmars scores the first of six goals for Arsenal with teammate Kanu watching on.





**Look out AFL,  
The Devils  
are coming  
to get you!**

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